Vatican accepts resignation of Bishop Bacani

Story below, COL. 2

Look who's talking

SIYA LANG ANG MAG POPOLITIKA!

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

LOOK who's talking.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has lately traveled the country to press flesh and grabbed

LOOK/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Wednesday, November 26, 2003 ★★ 74 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 351   P15   website: www.inq7.net

Foes to GMA: Don't pin kidnaps on us

'Palace blaming everyone except self'

By Christine O. Avendaño, Juliet L. Javellana and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's first executive secretary yesterday chided Malacañang for blaming the recent rash of kidnappings on unnamed parties out to destabilize the political order.

"It's hard to believe that that's the situation because there was no evidence, no information," Renato de Villa told reporters in Lucena City.

De Villa, who resigned as Ms Macapagal's executive secretary in 2001 for health reasons, has joined ex-Sen. Raul Roco's presidential campaign this week.

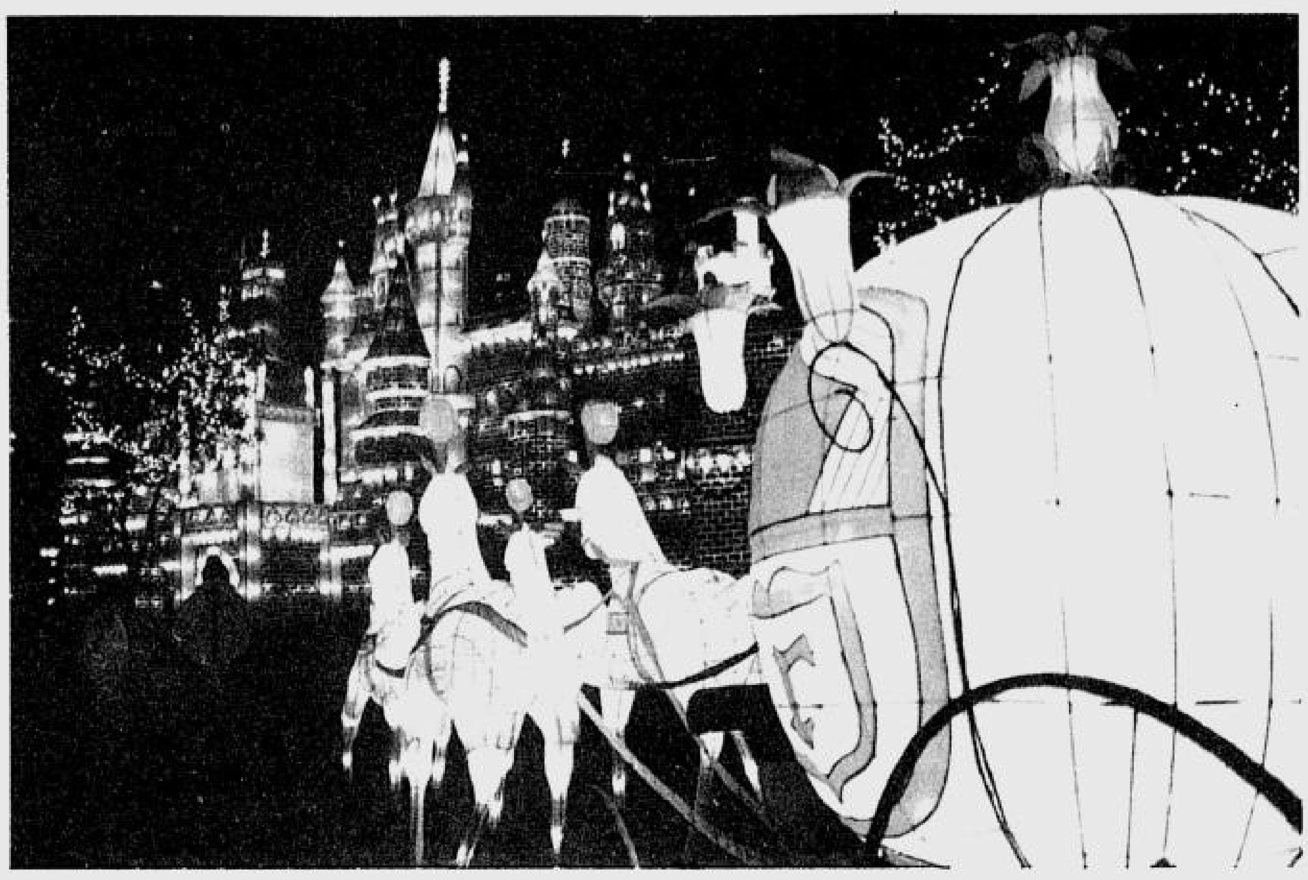
Opposition senators also wasted no time twitting the President. Ms Macapagal's statements reflect "the bankruptcy of ideas of this administration," said Sen. Edgardo Angara, who is leading the search for an opposition candidate.

"(She) just ought to look at the people surrounding her, her peace and order advisers, her anti-kidnapping advisers, and the police organization," Angara told reporters after attending the Philippine Business Conference at the Manila Hotel.

It is with these people that the President would "find the answer, or the cause, to why we are experiencing a rash of kidnappings," Angara said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who is planning to run for president, castigated the government for dismissing the kidnap-for-

FOES/ A21



A SPOT OF CAMELOT
A magical kingdom rises in our troubled land right across from the Oakwood Hotel in Glorietta in Makati City, the scene of rebellion by a group of young soldiers last July. RUDY ESPERAS

JDV pushes 7-pt peace and order plan

By Juliet L. Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia yesterday pushed for a seven-point action plan to "dramatically" improve the country's peace and order situation. His plan, he told an enthusiastic national convention of businessmen, will arrest the upsurge in kidnap-for-ransom cases.

But ahead of a keynote speech before the same Philippine Business Conference, President Macapagal-Arroyo thumbed down the anti-crime solution proposed by many. President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the death penalty was not a deterrent to heinous crimes as its advocates claim.

"We have had executions in the past and these have provided a steam valve to vent the public's ire against hardened criminals. But these executions did not stop heinous crime," she said in a statement.

But in his Manila Hotel speech, De Venecia said part of the action plan was for the President to immediately convene a summit—to determine whether it was time to lift the moratorium on capital punishment.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo (should) call a meeting with the leaders of Congress, business leaders, religious leaders and the civil society (to discuss the issue of) whether we should consider lifting the embargo on the death penalty on kidnap syndicates," De Venecia said.

The summit, he said, should not take more than four hours, and should also help complete an immediate action plan against the kidnapping syndicates.

As for possible amendments to the death

JDV/ A21

Business wants Neri to replace Camacho

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Clarissa S. Batino, *Business*

THE BUSINESS community is urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to appoint Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri as finance secretary to calm the nerves of investors skeptical of the government's ability to rein in the budget deficit in an election year.

In a letter sent to Malacañang, the country's largest business organizations asked the President for the immediate appointment of Neri to stabilize the situation.

Among the groups that signed the letter were the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Philippine Industries, Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce Inc., Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines Inc., and Philippines Inc.

The peso wobbled near record lows yesterday despite assurances from Malacañang that the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho would not

BUSINESS/ A21

RP nurses keep vigil as twins undergo surgery

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Filipino nurses at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York took turns keeping vigil and praying with Arlene Aguirre, the mother of 19-month-old conjoined twins Carl and Clarence, as the boys underwent a second surgery in the Bronx hospital last Monday.

They cried and laughed along with Arlene when US surgeons successfully completed the second major surgery for the twins in a process that has taken several months.

The twins from Negros Occidental are

RP NURSES/ A22

PDI PHOTO

ALAN PAGUIA: For conduct unbecoming.

Vatican accepts Bacani resignation

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE VATICAN has accepted the resignation of Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr., a move intended to finally "end the controversy" caused by the bishop's alleged sexual misconduct against his former secretary.

The Apostolic Nunciature in Manila announced yesterday that Bacani would not be in charge of any diocese but would remain a bishop.

Bacani will be replaced by San Fernando Bishop Antonio Tobias, who has been acting as the apostolic administrator of the diocese of Novaliches since June.

"This appointment ends all controversy that has disturbed the diocese of Novaliches for many months," the Apostolic Nunciature announced through a statement from the National Office of Mass Media.

"Bishop Bacani remains in good standing, with all rights and powers of a bishop. But at the moment, he is not in charge of any particular diocese," the Nunciature said.

Bacani left for a retreat somewhere in the Visayas 10 days ago, according to his brother Pastor Bacani. The older Bacani said that the bishop was fine and would continue to serve the Church.

Apostolic Nuncio Antonio Franco said that Pope John Paul II had accepted the resignation of Bacani "in accordance with Canon 401 Section 2 of the Code of Canon Law."

VATICAN/ A22

BACANI: Closure to controversy.

Supreme Court suspends Erap lawyer

By Philip C. Tubeza

A LAWYER of ousted President Joseph Estrada has been barred by the Supreme Court from practicing his profession for an indefinite period.

In an 11-page resolution it issued yesterday, the high court en banc unanimously decided to slap the suspension on Alan Paguia, for "liberally imputing sinister and devious motives [to] and questioning the impartiality, integrity and authority" of its members despite repeated warnings.

It said: "The Court has already

SUPREME/ A20

THE END of the holy month of Ramadan on Tuesday is celebrated by Muslims around the world with prayers and family reunions. In Manila, they pray at the Golden Mosque. Eid'l Fitr is Islam's biggest festival. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Filipino Muslims end fasting, join world Eid'l Fitr bash

By Nash B. Maulana and Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

FILIPINO Muslims yesterday joined the rest of the Islamic world in mass prayers and family get-togethers in celebrating Islam's biggest festival, the Eid'l Fitr, to end the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Around 20,000 people gathered at a sports oval in Cotabato City for prayers marking the start of the Eid'l Fitr, which is locally called the "Hariraya Puasa."

The feast of charity and reconciliation is usually celebrated three days with community prayers, exchanges, seeking each other's forgiveness, and a lot of food served to families, relatives and neighbors, both rich and poor.

Ustadz Omar Pasigan, 71, the grand mufti of the Philippine Darul Ifta (House of Opinion), declared the end of the fasting days on the 29th of Ramadan, 11 hours after the new moon was reportedly sighted first by Canadian astronomical observers at around 7 a.m. Monday (Manila time).

On Saturday, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu hosted a breadfruit-and-meat Ramadan dinner in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, for fasting local officials and residents.

Three years ago, then President Joseph Estrada hosted a similar din-

FILIPINO/ A21

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon will be cloudy with rains. Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/26/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Reds see FPJ as next president

By Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo

THE LEFT has conceded that a win by action star Fernando Poe, Jr. in the May 2004 elections is inevitable and has placed the country's fate in the movie actor's hands.

Exiled communist leader Jose Maria Sison himself admitted this in an e-mail message to militant groups identified with the National Democratic Front, saying the so-called King of Philippine Movies is the best bet in next year's presidential elections.

"Fernando Poe, Jr. has a good chance of winning because of his movie star kind of popularity ala [Joseph] Estrada and because [Eduardo] Danding Cojuangco and other financiers might provide him with the means," Sison said from his exile in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

"Panfilo Lacson might be squeezed out of the presidential race by FPJ and turned into a vice presidential candidate of FPJ, notwithstanding the flow of campaign money from Chinese businessmen who are in the drugs trade as well as those who enjoy protection from kidnapping for ransom," said the alleged founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

However, a congressman with close ties to President Macapagal-Arroyo warned against a Poe presidency.

Rep. Wilfredo Villarama (Bulacan) said a Poe presidency could become the exact opposite of his movies, where he made life easier for the poor and the oppressed, since he may end up beholden to political and economic interests who are pushing him to run.

Villarama also described politicians egging the action king to run for president in 2004 as "very irresponsible and unpatriotic."

"It will appear that these politicians are just using FPJ to seize political power for their own selfish interests," Villarama said. "This is very irresponsible and unpatriotic."

As this developed, a leftist leader yesterday asked Poe to make his stand on pressing national issues such as trade liberalization, national sovereignty, the long stalled peace process with the Communists, and social justice, particularly the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

Former Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, who now chairs the Anakpawis political party, said it is time for FPJ to pay back his millions of fans by coming up with a pro-people platform and refusing to give concessions to Estrada and Cojuangco.

"Poe has captured the imagination of many Filipino because of the roles he has played in the movies. Public office will not be role playing, however," Beltran said.

Rep. Joel Virador (Bayan Muna) said that Poe's platform of government "remains vague so we do not know whose interests he will be advocating."

Poe has to prove to the public that he is independent from Estrada, his longtime friend and fellow actor, he said.

Rep. Renato Magtubo (Partido ng Manggagawa) said that Poe has to demonstrate that he is another Hugo Chavez, the populist president of Venezuela who implemented sweeping pro-people reforms.

"If Fernando Poe will be a Hugo Chavez, then not only will workers give him their votes but will also give their lives to defend an FPJ government," Magtubo said.

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"Ang dali-dali!

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FPJ is man to beat, says Roco camp

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Cynthia D. Balana

LUCENA CITY—The camp of presidential aspirant Raul Roco has ruled out President Macapagal-Arroyo as its toughest rival in the 2004 presidential elections, saying the candidate to beat is action star Fernando Poe Jr.

"If FPJ will run for president, he's the man to beat," Renato de Villa, president of Reporma Party, told newsmen here yesterday during the awarding ceremony of Dakilang Anak ng Quezon 2003.

On Monday, Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko Party, De Villa's Reporma and Emilio Osmeña's Promdi Party banded together to form the "Alliance of Hope."

The three political parties, which earlier bolted from the ruling People Power Coalition (PPC), will support Roco's candidacy. According to Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, Roco has a good chance of beating Ms Macapagal and Poe in the elections.

In a press briefing, Moreno said that while political machinery and vast resources were a must for a presidential candidate, Filipinos, however, have a record of voting for the underdog.

He said that Roco provides alternative politics and is an epitome of consistency and transparency.

"There are more non-politicians among Filipinos than politicians. Political machinery is one of the critical factors but it's not the only factor," he stressed.

De Villa said the alliance is still looking for Roco's right running mate.

"Raul is seriously weighing the potentials of all the vice presidential nominees submitted to him. He wants his running mate as someone like him," he said.

A search committee has reportedly been formed by the alliance to select Roco's vice presidential candidate.

Included in the "short list" of nominees are Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senators Noli de Castro, Loren Legarda, Vicente Sotto III, Manuel Villar, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, De Villa and Osmeña.

De Villa, former Presidential Adviser for Strategic Concerns, said the new alliance "offers the best and most qualified presidential candidate who will govern with a system of principled leadership and honest government with priority to the economy, education, truth and justice."

Asked why he is endorsing Roco instead of Ms Macapagal whose presidency he helped install, Moreno said that among the candidates, only Roco has the determination to lead and succeed.

"He can provide the leadership that our country helplessly needs. He many not be popular but he's amiable," Moreno said.

Taiwan execs didn't apply for RP visas—Teco

"TRULY absurd" was how the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Teco), Taiwan's de facto embassy in the Philippines, described reports that the Philippine government had refused to issue visas to Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu and Foreign Minister Eugene Chien.

"The report is not true and completely unfounded," said a press statement released yesterday by Teco's information division. The statement said Lu was "busy with domestic affairs" and had "no time to make a foreign trip," while Chien was currently visiting countries in the Caribbean.

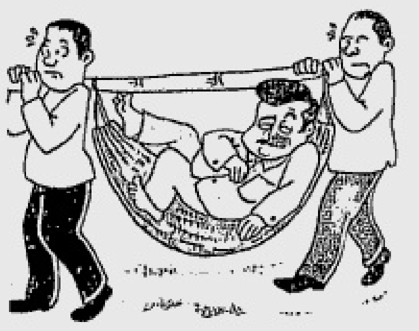
In fact, Teco said, no visa applications for the two officials had "ever" been filed, and that they had "no plans to visit the Philippines at this time or even in the near future."

On Monday, Foreign Affairs Secretary Ople said he refused to give visas to Lu and other top Taiwanese government officials who had reportedly been invited to two meetings in Manila—those of the Asia Overseas Affairs Federation and the RP-Taiwan Business Council—this week.

Ople said the rejection was in adherence to the Philippines' "One-China" policy. He said Taiwanese officials would be given visas only if they were visiting Manila for economic, and not political, purposes. Thus, he said, only Taiwan's economic minister, Lin Yi-fu, would be issued one. *Jerome Aning*

Erap says he's on his way to becoming 'sublime paralytic'

By Armand N. Nocum



WHEN he's not nursing his knees, Joseph Estrada is reading up on the life of Apolinario Mabini, the Philippine hero known as the "Sublime Paralytic."

The 66-year-old ousted president phoned the INQUIRER late Monday night to complain that he was enduring intense pain in his knees and that he was surviving on "antibiotics."

"You know, I've been reading a book on Apolinario Mabini, the Sublime Paralytic. *Yun siguro ang gusto nilang gawin sa akin* (Maybe that's what the authorities want me to become)," he said, sounding despondent.

Estrada said that his health was "fast deteriorating," and that walking a distance of 10 meters immediately brought him pain.

"If they will not allow me to be operated on abroad, I will just have to suffer possible paralysis for the good of the country, just like Mabini. He suffered for love of country. He continued his cause," Estrada said.

An illness rendered Mabini paralyzed when he was in his early 30s. But the writer, lawyer and patriot did not let his condition stop him from supporting the reform movement and the revolution against the Spanish colonizers.

Estrada's doctors have warned that if surgery were not performed, his knee problems may aggravate his slipped disc and possibly result in paralysis from the waist down.

No convincing case

Estrada particularly directed his ire at Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio who, along with the other members of the prosecution panel, is continuing to oppose his trip to the United States for the reason that the supposed required knee surgery could be performed here.

But in a phone interview, Villa-Ignacio said Estrada's doctors and court-appointed lawyers had failed to make a convincing case of the urgency of their client's medical condition.

"We are only acting on the evidence presented in court. It is difficult for us to say otherwise," Villa-Ignacio said, adding:

"I've never wished him [harm]. As a human person, not a legal person, I want to see him in good health."

But another prosecutor, who asked not to be named, said he was not one to "shed a tear" for Estrada.

Asked about Estrada's apparent identification with Mabini, the prosecutor said: "Paralytic, yes. Sublime, no."

Ninoy

Estrada had earlier likened his detention to that of the martyred Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

He again raised the supposed parallel last Monday, and wondered why Aquino was allowed by the strongman Ferdinand Marcos to seek medical treatment abroad, and why the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo's was not doing the same to him.

"Unlike Ninoy, I have not yet been convicted. A person is presumed innocent unless proven otherwise," said Estrada, who is being tried for graft and plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

Foreseeing another rejection by the anti-graft court, Estrada said he had asked his doctors if it was possible for him to put off surgery for six months in view of his mother's deteriorating health.

He quoted one of his doctors as saying: "You are fast deteriorating and I cannot guarantee that you will not [become paralyzed] in six months."

Insufficient evidence

In his continuing trial, three of Estrada's four court-appointed lawyers filed a motion declaring that he was not bound to present evidence in his behalf because the evidence presented by the prosecution was "constitutionally and legally insufficient to establish a prima facie case."

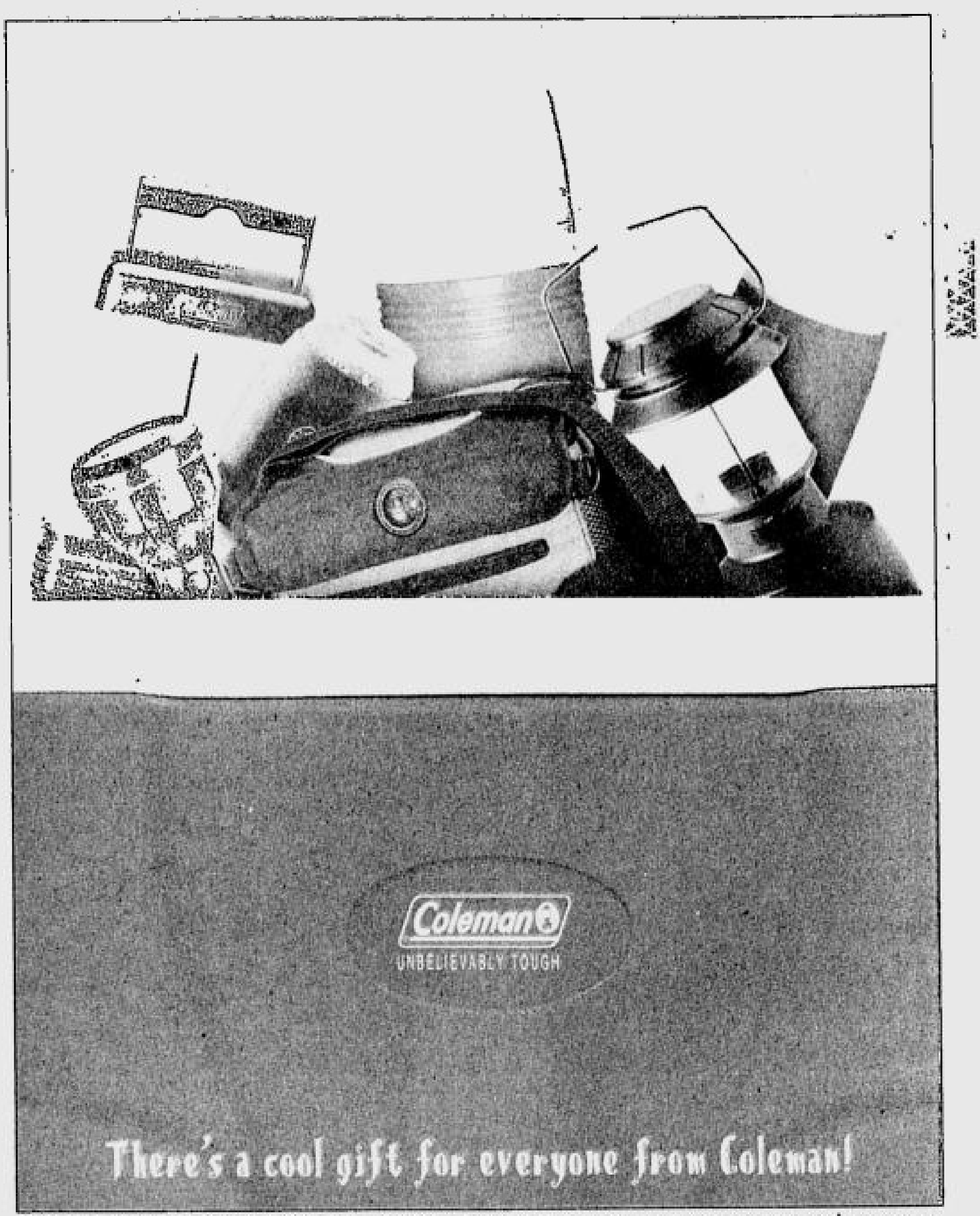
They said their client did not need to present evidence in his defense "since the rule is that the guilt of the accused must be established independently of whatever defense the accused may offer."

Kidnap victims ill, officials say

THREE of the five workers abducted from a resort in Sabah, Malaysia, early last month have fallen ill after more than a month of being on the run in the jungles of western Mindanao, according to military officials.

"We believe they are still alive. We got reports that three of them were suffering from minor illnesses," Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military chief information officer said yesterday, citing reports from the Southern Command.

Lucero said additional troops had been dispatched to rescue the three Indonesians and two Malaysians now believed to be holed up with their abductors in one of the islands in Tawi-Tawi. He said "about a company of Rangers" were sent to help a battalion of Marines initially deployed for the rescue operations. *TJ Burgonio*



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ANGARA SHOW?

Ping versus FPJ fight splits LDP

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Christine O. Avendaño

IS the largest opposition party splitting up?

Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) congressmen yesterday denounced what they said was an ongoing purge of members supporting the presidential candidacy of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

They said the purge was being conducted by party president Sen. Edgardo Angara, who is pushing for actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, LDP secretary general, charged that Angara's "dictatorial" actions would "torpedo any hope for a fair, honest, and and transparent selection process" for the party's standard-bearer in next year's national elections.

Angara and another party leader, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, dismissed the disturbance as mere noise created by a "splinter" and "minority" group.

Angara maintained that the party was solid and busy preparing for the 2004 polls. LDP's coalition with other parties "will happen soon," he told reporters after presenting the party platform for 2004 at the Philippine Business Conference and Exhibition at the Manila Hotel.

The LDP president defended Poe's failure to decide whether or not to make himself available for the selection. Angara said it was normal to "take time to think very carefully about a major leap."

He said he hoped Poe would attend the united opposition's next road show trip in Legazpi City scheduled on Nov. 28.

Sotto wondered if the "minority" group criticizing Angara was properly updated on what was going on in the party. He said the group might be getting false information from outsiders.

He said Angara had been consulting with party officials and that the most important thing that should be done at this point was to forge alliances.

Aquino cited at least two instances when, he said, party officials backing Lacson's bid were replaced on orders from Angara. In Palawan, he said, Rep. Abraham Mitra was relieved as provincial party chair and was replaced by Bucay Rodriguez, who was not even an incumbent.

In Western Visayas, Rep. Rolex Suplico was sacked as chair for Region 6 and replaced by former Rep. Allen Quimpo.

Aquino also noted that Angara pulled him and Lacson out of the original five-man panel tasked to negotiate with other parties.

"Angara reduced it to a three-man panel composed of himself, Sen. Vicente Sotto and Congressman Chipeco, who are both his loyal followers," Aquino said. "So you can see that the so-called selection process is now (turning into) an Angara show."

RP studies conference set

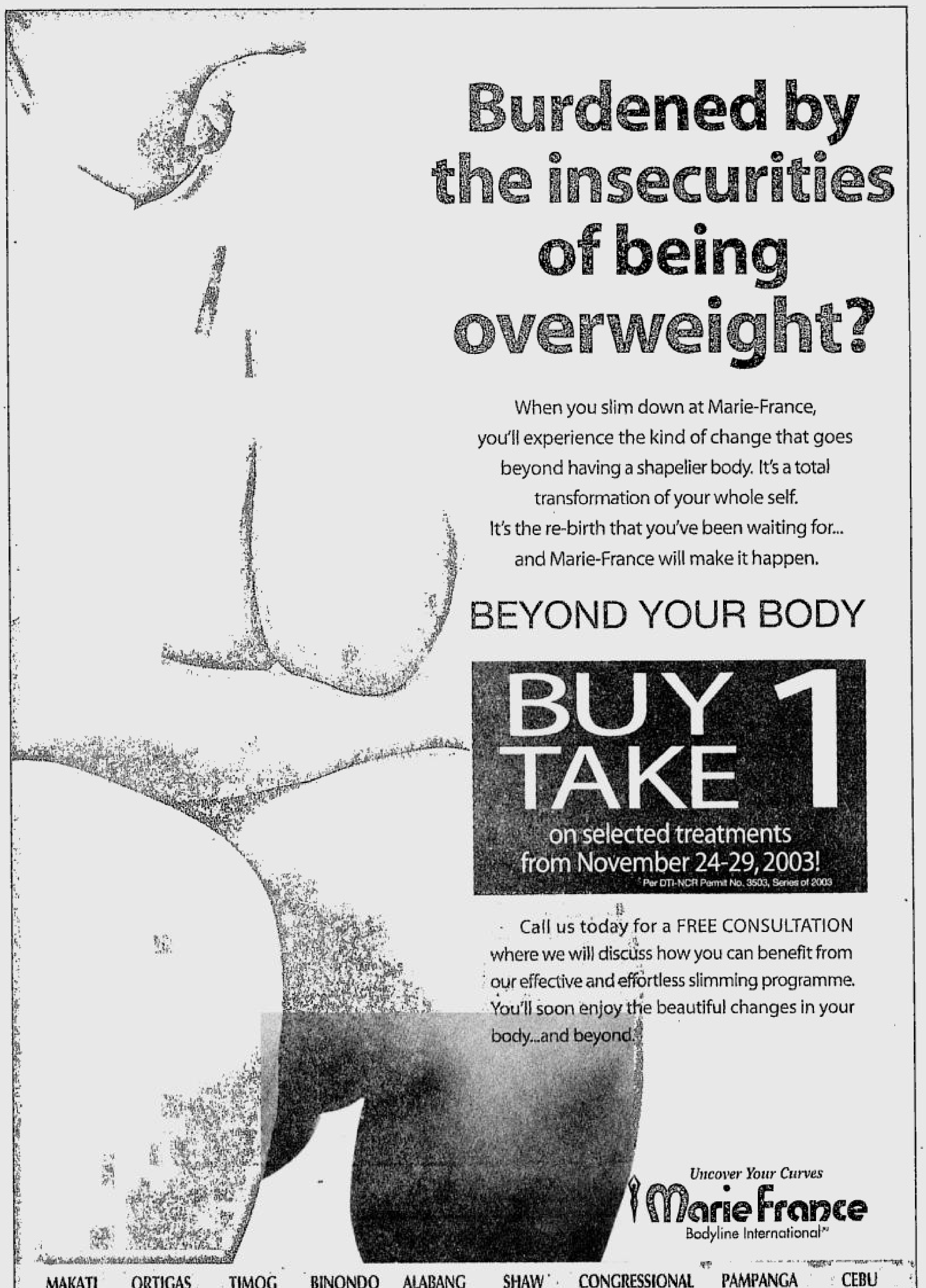
THE PHILIPPINE Studies Association (PSA), in cooperation with the Philippine Social Science Council, will hold the 3rd National Philippine Studies Conference on the theme, "The Philippines: Changing Landscapes, Humanscapes and Mindscapes in a Globalizing World" on Dec. 5-6 at the PSSC Center, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

The theme reflects that of the International Conference on Philippine Studies, which will be held in Amsterdam in June 2004. Apart from papers written on the theme, the national conference will also feature a panel on the state of Philippine Studies in the country. The conference is endorsed by the Commission on Higher Education.

Registration fee is P1,000 to cover conference materials, meals and access to all sessions. A special rate is available for graduate students who must present a valid ID during registration.

For particulars, visit www.up.edu.ph and call Karen Barrios or Isagani Lachica of the Conference Secretariat at 929-2671 and 922-9630, or e-mail programs@pssc.org.ph.

The PSA is an organization of scholars, researchers and specialists on Philippine studies which aims to promote a multidisciplinary method of study, criticism and research in Philippine languages, literature, culture and society.



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Caltex leads another round of oil price increases

By Ronnel Domingo

MOTORISTS and other consumers have reason to complain for the second time this month, as Caltex Philippines Inc., Eastern Petroleum Corp., Flying V and Unioil Philippines Petroleum Corp. yesterday hiked prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 30 centavos per liter.

The last industry-wide price hike was by 40 centavos per liter in the first week of November.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and the other small players said they were still monitoring market conditions.

In a statement, Caltex officials pointed to the continued rise of fuel prices in the international market. They said the company would continue to reflect global prices in pump rates with small and frequent adjustments, to avoid big and sudden swings.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. chair Fernando Martinez said costs of providing the fuels actually increased by 50 centavos per liter. The oil firms were sympathizing with consumers by shouldering the 10-centavo difference, Martinez said in a phone interview.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. advised motorists to get their fuel from gasoline stations that had not hiked pump prices for the meantime.

Caltex said it was maintaining the discount program and would in fact open a separate "jeepney lane" in 11 of its service stations in Metro Manila.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that Dubai crude prices went up by $1.18 to $26.55 a barrel in October from $25.37 a barrel in September.

Mean of Platts Singapore (Mops)—the benchmark for finished products—prices for unleaded gasoline went up by $2.43 to $35.54 a barrel in October from $33.11 a barrel the previous month.

Mops prices for diesel shot up by $1.15 to $32.86 a barrel last month from $31.71 a barrel in September.

Rodis; 78

TEOFILA Elepaño Rodis has passed on Monday at the Beth Deaconess Medical Center, in Boston, Massachusetts. She suffered from a sudden aneurysm, which led to a coma from which she never recovered. She was 78.

She is survived by her eight children Rodel, Don, Girlie, Loida, Abraham, Selma Hannan, Bebs Sipin, Gevic and Rambu, 13 grandchildren and older brother Jose Elepaño, 93. She hails from Calamba, Laguna.

There will be a prayer service on Friday in Boston. Funeral services will be provided by the Duckett Funeral Home in Sudbury, Massachusetts. Her body is scheduled to be flown to San Francisco on Saturday.

She will lie at the Duggan's Funeral Home in Daly City. There will be a funeral mass at the St. Stephen's church near Stonestown Galleria in San Francisco on Dec. 1. She will be buried at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Colma City by the side of her husband Hermilo. There will be a memorial mass for her in Manila and Calamba to be announced later.

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More changes seen in Cabinet; solon wants chief of DENR ousted

THE SUDDEN resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Camacho is expected to trigger movements in the Cabinet, and if Rep. Aniceto Saludo has his way, he would prefer Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Elisea Gozun to be the first to go.

The Southern Leyte congressman has accused Gozun of incompetence for her "counter-productive measures that ensure the death of the mining industry." This ineptitude, Saludo said, should be reason enough for President Macapagal Arroyo to dismiss her as the next step in the the ongoing Cabinet movements.

On Monday, Malacañang said it expected more movements in the Cabinet over the next few weeks but it assured the public that it would be business as usual in the government.

In a statement, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said changes in the Cabinet would continue and that these should not in any way impinge upon business confidence as they are within the normal run of governance.

But Bunye said he does not know how many Cabinet members would resign either in the course of governance and the elections.

"We cannot confirm the extent of the resignations but the process for replacement is in place with prospective nominees to be chosen on their competence, integrity and adherence to the programs of the administration," Bunye said.

Saludo welcomed the President's announcement of changes in her Cabinet and said Gozun should be the first to go for her ineptitude at handling the sustainable development of our country's natural resources.

"It seems that President Arroyo is serious, after all, about rebuilding the mining industry and creating opportunities for the jobless," said Saludo.

He pointed out that while the President was "breaking her back" to revitalize the country's "decrepit" mining industry, the DENR under Gozun was implementing "counter-productive measures that ensure the death of mining in this country."

Gozun is already facing graft charges before the Ombudsman, filed by a certain Lauro Paglinawan, for allegedly unexplained wealth and for her and for her alleged collusion with former and present DENR officials in cornering lucrative contracts through Gaia South Inc.

With a report from Gil Cabacungan

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Self-defense—We stress that when the accused invokes self-defense, the burden of proof is shifted from the prosecution to the defense. Thus, the latter assumes the responsibility of establishing this plea by clear and convincing evidence. Upon its shoulders rests the duty of proving, to the satisfaction of the trial court, the justifying circumstance of self-defense. The accused who avers that the killing arose from an impulse of self-defense has the *onus probandi* of proving the elements thereof. The essential requisites of self-defense are the following: (1) unlawful aggression on the part of the victim; (2) reasonable necessity of the means employed to prevent or repel such aggression; and (3) lack of sufficient provocation on the part of the person resorting to self-defense. Verily, to invoke self-defense successfully, there must have been an unlawful and unprovoked attack that endangered the life of the accused, who wan then forced to inflict severe wounds upon the assailant by employing reasonable means to resist the attack. [Citations omitted.] [En anc, Justice Panganiban, People v. Escarlos, G.R. No. 148912, September 10, 2003]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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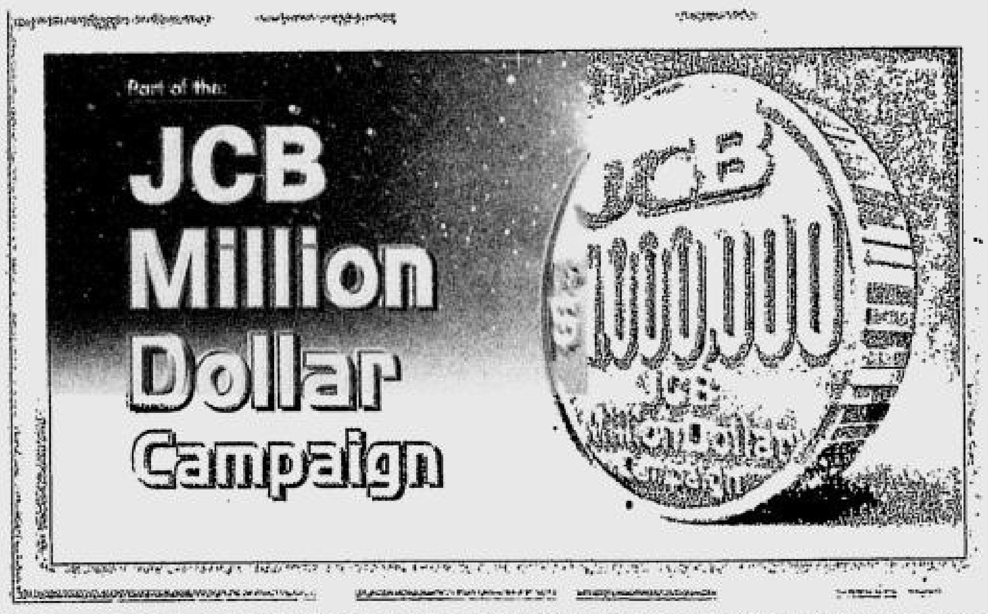

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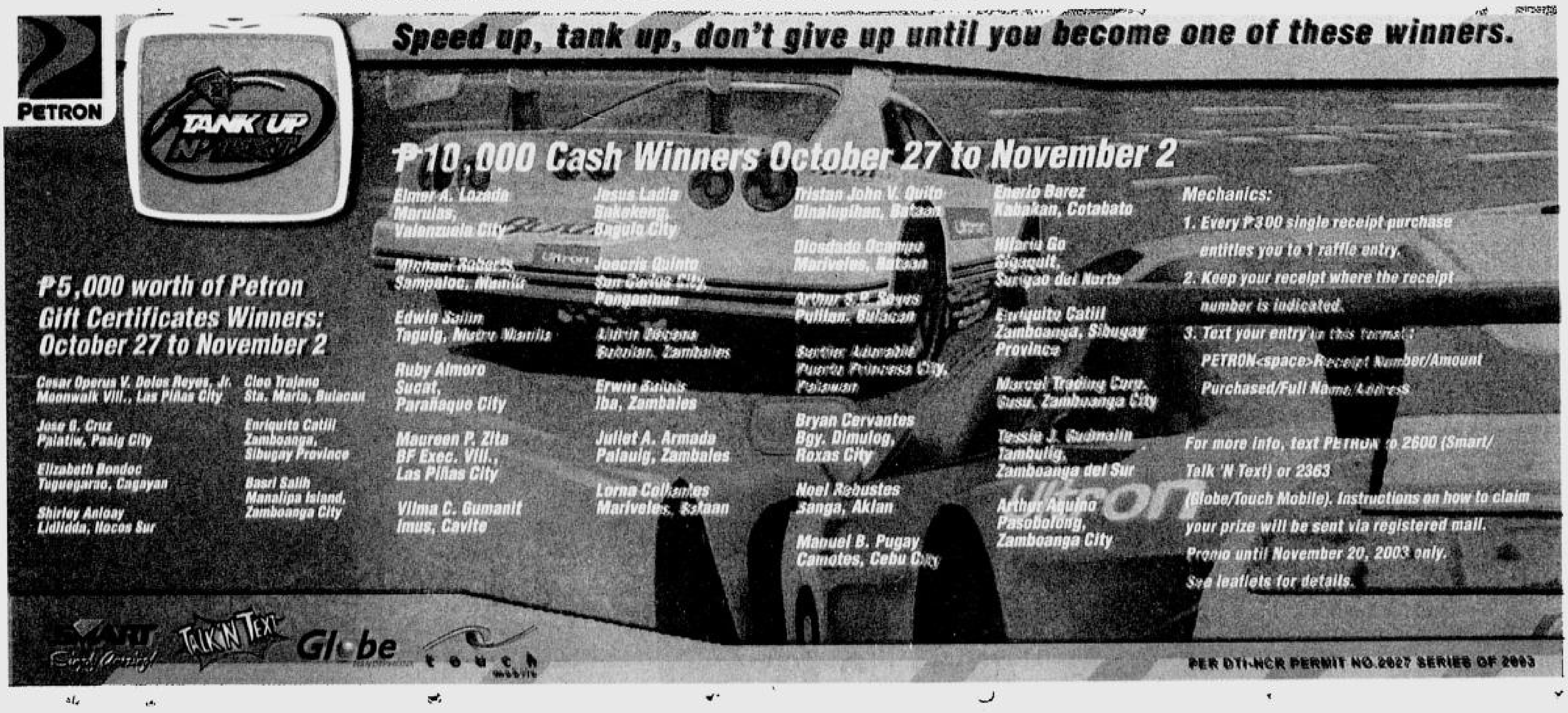

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Gordons lead protest against new Subic port

By Volt Contreras

THE GORDONS of Olongapo City yesterday demonstrated stiff opposition to the proposed P215-million port at the mouth of Subic Bay, saying it was both an impractical venture and an environmental threat.

Mayor Kate Gordon led about a hundred supporters to Metro Manila to picket the Environment department and the Japanese Embassy, in reaction to reports that the project was a "done deal" with the signing last week of a loan agreement between Japan and the Philippines.

Her husband, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, issued a statement arguing that the loan from the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation was "unnecessary" because, since 1996, the private sector had shown interest in developing Subic's existing ports.

The conflict is apparently drawing the Gordons back to the warpath with an old political nemesis, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Felicito Payumo.

"We are not against the development of Subic; we're, against the location of the proposed port," the mayor told reporters at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Quezon City.

"This will destroy the environment," she said, noting that up to 39 hectares of marine area at Cubi Point would have to be reclaimed to accommodate all three cargo terminal berths as planned.

With members of a resort owners' group in tow, she warned that Subic's popular beaches, natural coral reefs and other marine attractions would absorb the muck from a "wrongly-situated port."

Vice Mayor Cynthia Cajudo added that increased siltation likely to be caused by the port's construction would leave the bay shallower and the surrounding communities more prone to flooding.

Secretary Gordon, who is also Cabinet officer for regional development in Central Luzon, said operating a new container port at Cubi might "affect the viability" of the nearby Subic Bay International Airport.

Separated only "by a fence" from the project site, the airport's security and navigation signals could be compromised, the Tourism chief and former SBMA chair explained.

"It's something we don't need at this time, especially since we have other ports that are underutilized," Mayor Gordon said.

She pointed to the existing 38-hectare NSD (Naval Supply Depot) port and its 22-hectare extension which, she said, would be "much cheaper and faster to develop." Also, she said, the NSD port's handling capacity had been proven with no less than United States Navy cargo ships and aircraft carriers during the American occupancy of Subic.

The protesters went to the the DENR in Quezon City amid reports that the agency had issued an environmental compliance certificate to the project.

But meeting them at the picket line, Director Julian Amador of the Environmental Management Bureau clarified that the department was still awaiting recommendations from a review committee.

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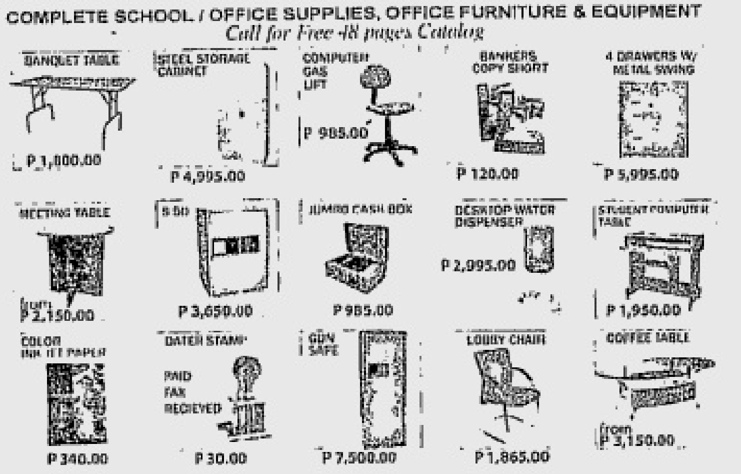

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FILSCAP WINS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT CASE AGAINST HOME CABLE

The Filipino Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, Inc. (FILSCAP) hailed the decision of the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 90, presided over by Judge Reynaldo Daway, which ruled that the acts of Philippine Home Cable Holdings, Inc. (known as HOME CABLE) of commercially using, playing, performing, transmitting, broadcasting and communicating to the public musical works included in FILSCAP's repertoire without its authorization, constitute infringement of FILSCAP's copyright to said musical works.

FILSCAP, a non-stock, non-profit association which represents the public performance, mechanical reproduction, synchronization and publishing rights of its members as well as those of foreign composers affiliated with foreign collecting societies like ASCAP and BMI of the United States, initially requested HOME CABLE to obtain a public performance license before playing musical works included in FILSCAP's repertoire. Due to HOME CABLE's failure to heed FILSCAP's requests, FILSCAP, through its counsel, the SAPALO & VELEZ LAW OFFICES, instituted a complaint against HOME CABLE, asking the court to order HOME CABLE to stop using any musical work included in its repertoire and to pay damages and attorney's fees.

In its decision, the trial court held that HOME CABLE cannot-escape copyright liability by simply claiming to be an intermediary or re-transmitter of FILSCAP's literary or artistic works and thus, putting the blame on broadcasters or program providers. As operator of a CATV system, HOME CABLE invariably and deliberately engages in the public performance and the communication to the public of FILSCAP's musical works yet without obtaining FILSCAP's consent. The trial court further ordered HOME CABLE to pay FILSCAP P1,000,000.00 as exemplary damages and P500,000.00 as reasonable attorney's fees and expenses of litigation, plus costs of suit.

The court also ordered HOME CABLE, its agents, representatives, assignees and persons acting in its behalf and under its authority to cease and desist from using, or causing to be used, and any musical work included in FILSCAP's repertoire. HOME CABLE recently file its Notice of Appeal to said decision of the trial court.

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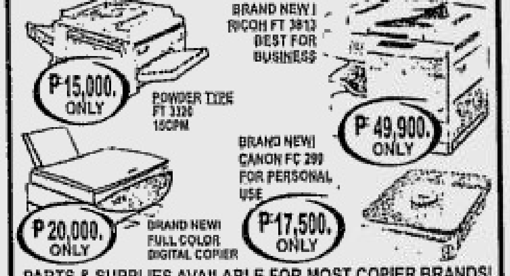

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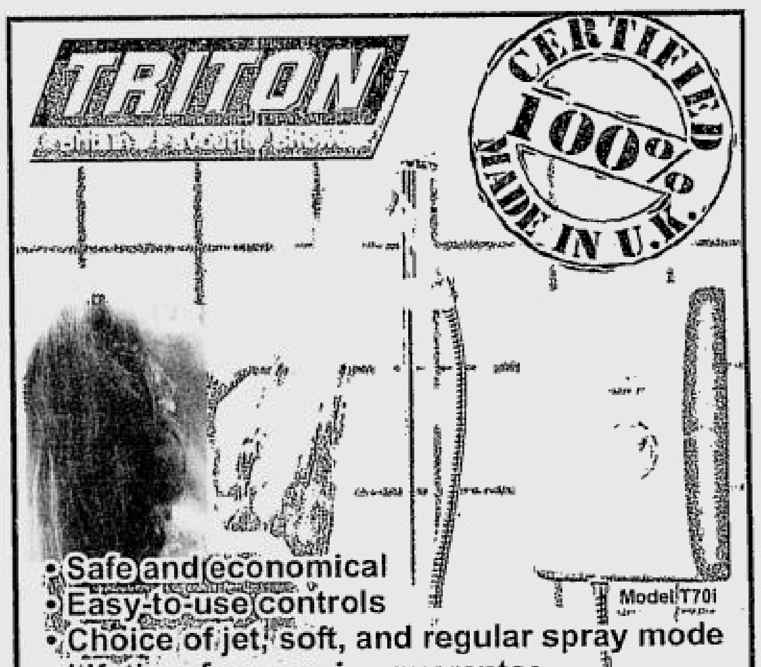

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, by virtue of these presents, hereby REVOKE, ANNUL, and make VOID the above POWER OF ATTORNEY and all powers and authority therein or thereby given or granted shall not be honored by me.

23 October 2003, Makati City.

RICARDO ARTURO "DONDI" T. LUGOD
Affiant

Signed in the presence of:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Makati City) S.S.

BEFORE ME, this Oct. 24, 2003 in the Municipality of Makati Province of [illegible], Philippines, personally appeared **Mr. Ricardo Arturo T. Lugod** exhibiting to me his Community Tax Certificate No. 09643976 issued on October 24, 2003 at Quezon City, known to me to be the same person who executed the foregoing instrument and who acknowledge to me that the same is their free act and deed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal, on the day, year, and place above wri

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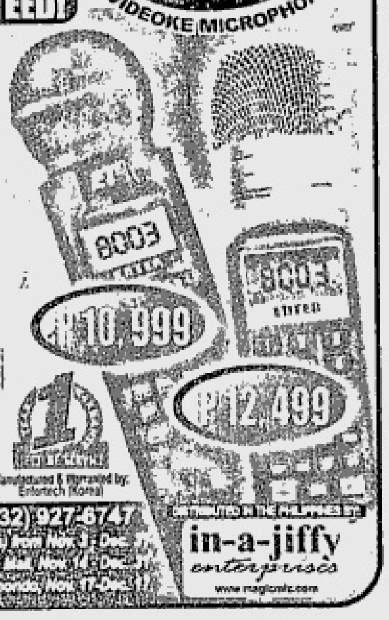

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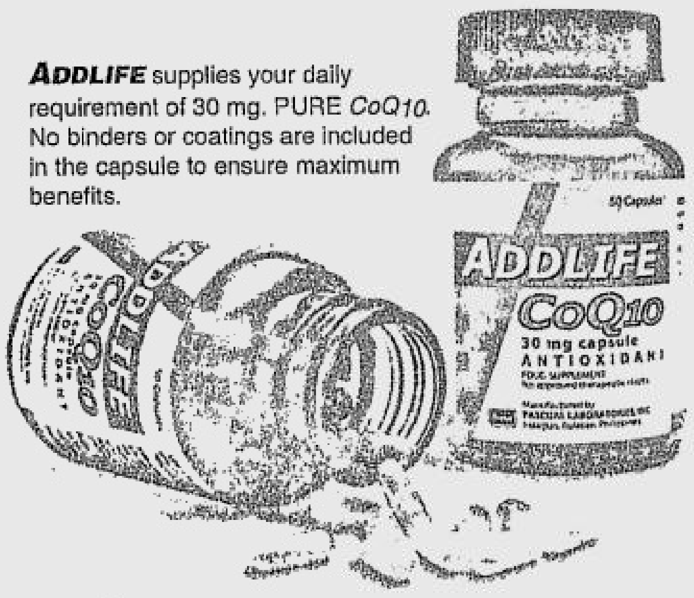

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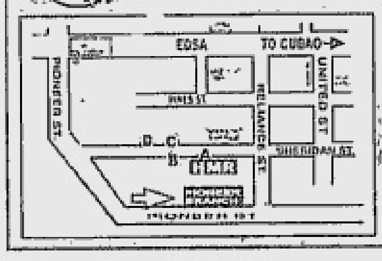

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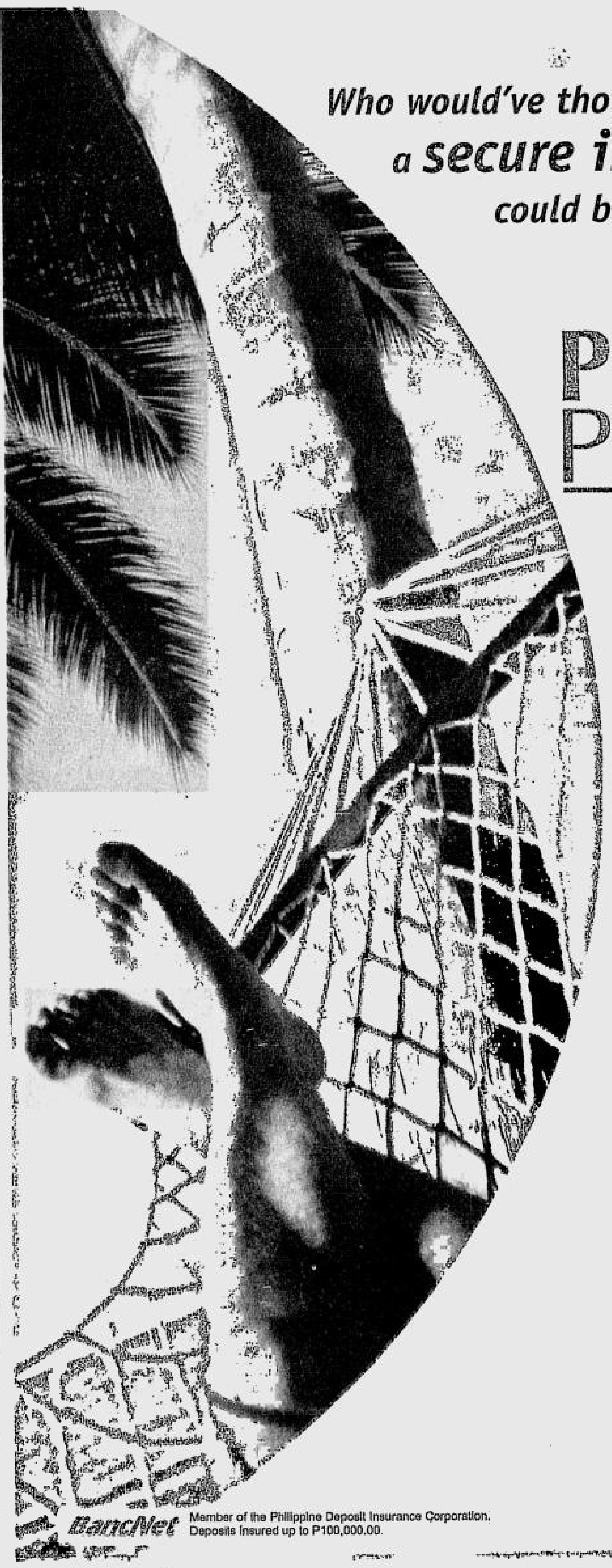

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Mission order for a fee: Officer, 2 men charged

"WE'LL throw the book at them."

So vowed Commodore Tirso Danga, the military's intelligence chief, yesterday as he said that the military was compiling more evidence so it could file charges against an intelligence official and two of his men who allegedly sold mission orders at P7,500.

He also ordered the recall of voluminous mission orders prepared and issued by Lt. Col. Nestor Saludo, commander of the Military Intelligence Group 23, his deputy Capt. Marlon Mendoza and personnel M/Sgt. Valeriano Cartagones.

Saludo, Mendoza and Cartagones had been relieved from their posts pending the outcome of the investigation on the alleged misdemeanor conducted by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

Danga, Isafp chief, said that the three could be charged with several violations of the Articles of War, particularly Art. 96 (conduct unbecoming an officer), for issuing MOs without any authorization and for making money out of it.

He ordered the restriction of the three to barracks on Nov. 17 for their "illegal act" and confinement on Nov. 22 at the Isafp headquarters after learning that they had prepared and issued the MOs deliberately.

"I thought it was an honest mistake. But I learned it was intentional and it was made for monetary consideration" Danga said in a phone interview. "They made business out of it."

"The AFP does not tolerate such wrongdoing," added Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff.

Investigation showed that Saludo, Mendoza and Cartagones prepared and issued mission orders, appointment papers and identification cards to civilians, and charged them a fee of at least P7,500 each.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 26, 2003
34th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
Gospel:	Lk 21:12-19

Jesus said, "Before all this happens, people will lay their hands on you and persecute you; you will be delivered to the Jewish courts and put in prison, and for my sake you will be brought before kings and governors. This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

"So keep this in mind: do not worry in advance about what to answer, for I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

"You will be betrayed even by parents, and brothers, by relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. But even though you are hated by all for my name's sake, not a hair of your head will perish. Through perseverance you will possess your own selves."

Commentary

"Through perseverance you will possess your own selves." Today's gospel gives us assurance. We live in difficult times: criminality is rampant, natural calamities come after the other. Family life is threatened, personal problems accumulate and we wonder if God is still busy with us. Oftentimes, we visualize him as the far away lighthouse on solid ground which throws its beam at regular intervals to guide us safely but are not aware that he is also with us in the storm as the buoy which is safely anchored in the heaving waters. "The Christian remains a person of hope, who does not abandon his responsibilities, even when the sailing gets rough, for he trusts in the Lord." (P. Foulon, From Spring to Life, p. 358)

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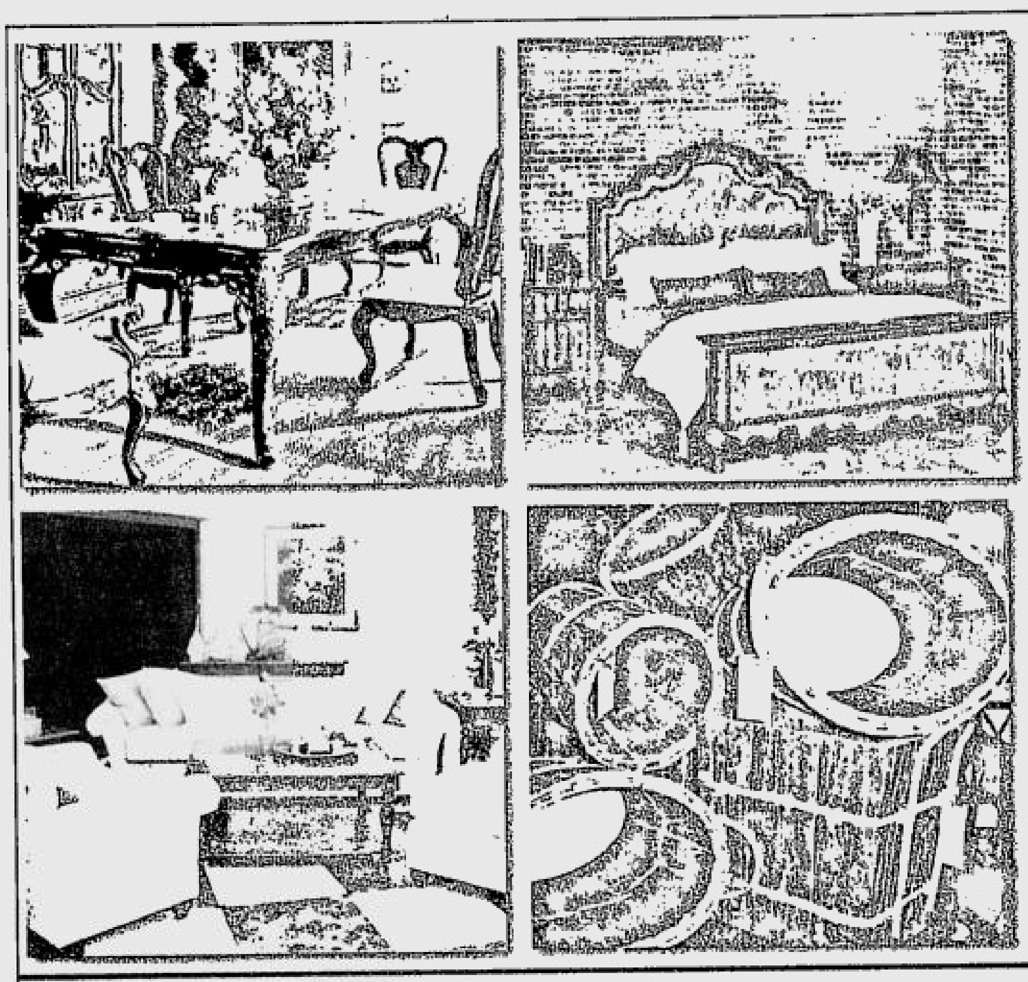

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5th BIENNIAL ASNA CONVENTION & 25th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE PHILIPPINE NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 2, 2003 • WATERFRONT, CEBU CITY HOTEL, CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, NOV. 29
0800-1700 REGISTRATION
0800 PRE-CONVENTION POSTGRADUATE COURSE
TROPICAL CNS INFECTIONS
(Child Neurology Society Philippines)
Management of Complicated Meningitis
Medical Management - Dr S R Gatchalian
Surgical Management - Dr. G D Legaspi
Parasitic Infections of the CNS:
Epidemiologic Data & Current Treatment
Cerebral Malaria - Dr Ma. D. G. Bustos
Cerebral Cysticercosis & Schistosomiasis Dr V. Y. Bellosillo
Brain Abscess: Treatment Options & Neurodiagnostics
Cranial Ultrasound - Dr. T N Rabara
Surgical treatment - Dr M. M. Manano
Chair: Dr A. M Salonga
1130 Co-Chair: Dr. M. H. Ortiz M
SUBARACHNOID HEMORRHAGE
(Academy of Filipino Neurosurgeons)
General Management of SAH - Dr Edgardo T Tan
SAH in the Elderly - Dr Manuel M Mariano
SAH in Pregnancy - Dr Gerardo D Legaspi
EC-IC Bypass in Aneurysm & Occlusive Disease - Dr Peter P Rivera
Clip or Coil: Current concepts in the management of SAH - Dr Peter Rivera
Chair: Dr Edgardo T Tan
Co-Chair: Dr. Peter P. Rivera A2-3
1130-1230 PNA-HATRAPHARM Research Paper Contest (Case Report Category) M
1230-1345 LSS: Topiramate in Migraine Prophylaxis (Janssen) M
1345-1445 PNA-PFIZER Research Paper Contest (Retrospective Category) M
1445-1515 PNA-OTSUKA Research Paper Contest (Prospective Category) M
COFFEE BREAK
1600-1700 PNA BUSINESS MEETING BB
1730-2000 OPENING OF EXHIBITS and OPENING CEREMONIES M

SUNDAY, NOV 30
0700-0800 BS: USE OF BOTULINUM TOXIN IN CEREBRAL PALSY (Dysport)
Prof A N O Balbon (UK) (Beaufour-Ipsen) M
0800-1000 PLENARY I: EPIDEMIOLOGY OF ASEAN NEUROLOGIC DISEASES
Chair: Dr. A.A. Roxas, Jr
Stroke — Dr. N Poungvarin, Thailand
Seizure — Dr L. I Cabral-Lim, Philippines
CNS TB — Dr D. Gunawan M
COFFEE BREAK
1015 ACQUIRED/TOXIC NEUROPATHIES
Toxic Neuropathies - Dr C Cequena, Philippines
Electrophysiology of GBS & CIDP - Dr Goh K. Jin (Malaysia)
Channelopathies in Neuromuscular Disorders - Kimiyoshi Arimura, Japan
Chair: Amado San Luis
Co-chair: Goh Khean Jin
CNS INFECTION
Japanese B Encephalitis - Sivaporn Chankrachang (Thailand)
Nipah Encephalitis - Chong Tin Tan, Malaysia
Rabies - Beatriz Quiambao, Philippines
Chair: Rene Punsalan
Co-chair: Dede Gunawan
MOVEMENT DISORDERS: TREATMENT OPTIONS
X-Linked Dystonia of Panay - Dr. L. Lee, Philippines
Comparison of the Clinical Efficiency and Safety Muscle Afferent Block versus Botulinum Toxin A in The Treatment of X-Linked Dystonia-Parkinsonism Complex (DYT3) - Marissa B. Dantes, Philippines
PPS alternate Treatment of Dystonia with Muscle Afferent Blockers using Lidocaine Ethanol Injection - Ryuji Kaji, Japan
Deep Brain Stimulation in Tremors and Dystonia - Louis Tan Chew Seng, Singapore
Chair: Lillian V Lee
Co-chair: Ryuji Kaji
1215 LSS: Oral Citicoline in Acute Ischemic Stroke - Dr A. Davalos (Spain) (Natrapharm) M
Maximizing Strategy for Stroke Prevention - Dr. Artemio A. Roxas Jr. (Phil.) (Sanofi) A2-3
1400 PLENARY II: TCD: Clinical Applications & Future Directions - Dr A. Alexandrov (USA) M
1500 COFFEE BREAK (15 MINS)
SS4 NEUROIMAGING: CLINICAL APPLICATIONS
1515 MRI in Neurovascular Diseases - Dr. F Hui (Singapore)
MRS - Dr. A. Cheng / K. Tan (Phil)
PET Scan - Dr J Santiago (Phil)
Chair: Dr. N. Tan A2-3
NEUROSONOLOGY WORKSHOP
Basic Principles & Clinical Applications
Carotid & Vertebral Duplex Scan - Dr D Rabanatorn (Thailand)
TCD - Dr. Hui Meng Chang (Singapore)
TCD in Acute Neurology - Dr A. Alexandrov (USA) M
Chair: Dr J Navarro A2-3
1715 ASNA International Advisory Board Meeting
FREE PAPER POSTER A2-3
FREE PAPER POSTER
1900 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT Pool Aquatic

Registration Fee: P2,000.00 local delegates only

MONDAY, DEC 1
0800-0900 PLENARY III: NEUROLOGY OF SLEEP - Dr. J Siegel (USA) M
0900-1000 PLENARY IV: MALIGNANT MCA INFRACTION: BEST TREATMENT OPTION - Prof S Schwab (Germany) M
COFFEE BREAK
1015-1215 SS5: STROKE
1015 Intraarterial Thrombolysis & the Path It Led - Dr Meng Cheong Wong (Singapore)
Cognitive Impairment in Stroke - Dr L Wong (HK)
Aspirin Failure & Resistance - Dr R. Gan (Phil)
Chair: Dr J Cuanang
Co-Chair: Dr Meng Cheong Wong M
SS6: EPILEPSY IN THE ASEAN REGION
State of Epilepsy - Dr L. Cabral-Lim (Phil)
West Syndrome: ASEAN Experience - Dr A. Visudhiphan (Thailand)
Epilepsy Surgery - Dr Lim Shih Hui (Singapore)
Chair: Dr F Bacsal
Co-Chair: Dr Lim Shih Hui A2-3
1215-1400 LSS: Homocysteine, Diabetes & CNS Complications - Dr. A. Araki (Japan), Dr A. Belonila (Phil) (H-Esai) A2-3
LSS: Achieving Patient's Goal of Improved Seizure Control - Prof J Sander (UK) (UCB) M
1400-1600 SS7: ANGIOPLASTY AND STENTING
Overview - Dr B. Adapon (Phil)
Current Status of Extracranial & Intracranial Angioplasty & Stenting - Dr Yuichi Murayama (Japan)
Stenting of Atherosclerotic Lesions in Ischemic Stroke - Dr Dong Ik Kim (Seoul, Korea)
Stenting for Atherosclerosis Stenosis of Cervical Carotid & Intracranial Stenting - Dr Nobuyuki Sakai (Japan)
Chair: Dr B. Adapon M
WS2: BOTOX WORKSHOP
Botox in Post Stroke Spasticity and Dystonia - Dr J Rogers (USA)
Chair: Dr R. Rosales A2-3
1600-1730 OSS: Prevention of Silent Brain Infarction with the Use of Cilostazol - Dr Y Yamasaki (Japan)
CSPS - A New Modality for Secondary Stroke Prevention - Dr S. Uchiyama (Japan) (Otsuka) M
OSS: The Use of Oxcarbazepine in Generalized Tonic-Clonic Seizures (Novartis) A2-3
FREE NIGHT

TUESDAY, DEC 2
0800-0900 PLENARY V: THE ROLE OF STATINS IN STROKE PREVENTION - Dr E. Cabral M
0900-1000 PLENARY VI: RECENT ADVANCES IN MUSCLE DISORDERS - Prof Ikuya Nonaka (Japan) M
COFFEE BREAK
1015 SS8: NEUROONCOLOGY
Overview - Dr M. Gosa (Phil)
Tumor Markers in CNS Metastasis - Dr J Zamuco (Phil)
IMRT - Dr M. Calaguas (Phil)
Chemotherapy & Developing Biological Therapies - Dr Meng Cheong Wong
Chair: Dr M. Gosa M
SS9: MUSCLE DISORDERS: DIAGNOSTIC APPROACHES
Clinical and Pathologic Diagnosis - Dr Ikuya Nonaka (Japan)
Neuroimaging & Electro Physiologic Diagnosis - Dr Woon Chee Yea (Singapore)
Biochemistry and Molecular Diagnosis - Dr Nishino (Japan)
Chair: Dr I Nonaka
Co-Chair: Dr D. Dans A2-3
1215 LSS: What's New in Secondary Stroke Prevention & Update on Thrombolytic - Dr D. Jameson (Boehringer) M
LSS: Mechanism of Neuropathic Pain: A Neurophysiologist's Therapy Perspective - Dr. S. Nodado-Vios (Phils) (Pfizer) A2-3
1400 FREE PAPER POSTER
FREE PAPER POSTER
1500-1700 SS10: DEMENTIA: ORGANIZING & EVALUATING SERVICES
Overview - Dr S Marasigan (Phil)
Organizing Dementia Clinics: The Essentials - Dr C. Chen (Sing)
Evaluating Dementia Services: The Evidence - Dr G. Ortaza (Phil)
Setting Up Dementia Facilities: The Experience - Dr. Y Senanarong (Thai)
Chair: Dr S. Marasigan M
SS11: SLEEP SYMPOSIUM
Narcolepsy - Dr J. Siegel (USA)
Sleep Apneas - Dr. R. Divinagracia (Phil)
Insomnias - Dr C. Sukying (Thailand)
Chair: Dr F Sollo A2-3
COFFEE BREAK
1715-1815 PLENARY: EVIDENCE - BASED COMBINATION THERAPY IN REFRACTORY EPILEPSY - Prof J Sander (UK) A2-3
1900 CLOSING CEREMONIES M

Legend:
M - Mediterranean Ballroom
A1 - Arctic 1
A2 - Arctic 2
A3 - Arctic 3
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Messages

I greet the officers and members of the Philippine Neurological Association (PNA) for hosting the ASEAN Neurological Association (ASNA) 5th Biennial Convention.

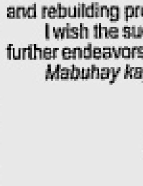
I commend this organization for its unwavering commitment to uplift the delivery of health care services in ASEAN countries. As one of the prime organizations involved in providing medical assistance to our people, your active partnership ensures that many of our people's lives will be uplifted.

This event with the theme, "Exploring New Frontiers in ASEAN Neurology", manifests your organization's unwavering commitment to further improve on the health care services in our communities. The services provided by organizations like the PNA do not only complement our government's health care programs, but also encapsulate this Administration's thrust to hasten our country's healing and rebuilding process.

I wish the success of this assembly. May you undertake further endeavors for better health and welfare of our people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines



I convey my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the ASEAN Neurological Association (ASNA) on the occasion of your 5th Biennial Convention with the theme, "Exploring New Frontiers in ASEAN Neurology."

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the organizers for bringing together into the assembly a wide array of international experts on neurology, a wide range of topics and issues to be discussed, as well as a diverse mix of personages from various backgrounds and cultures which, I am certain, would certainly stimulate greater interest to this conference.

Our country has gained significant improvements and advancement in our health profile. Modern technology was adopted and the health care system has been updated to cater to the growing needs of our people. All these were made with the support of our partner in health like the ASNA. You also have proven to be an essential element not only in the implementation of the various health programs and projects of the Department of Health, but also in disseminating important and new innovations in the field of neurology.

I urge you to sustain fora that will offer a meaningful exchange of ideas, knowledge, information and technology among members of your association. Let these events then be a venue for a meaningful sharing of vital information and innovative ideas as you aim to reach a consensus on how to further strengthen the role of neurologist in meeting the health needs of our people, with the ultimate goal of improving the delivery of quality yet affordable specialty care to our people, especially the poor and the underserved.

Mabuhay po kayong lahat.

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., MSc
Secretary of Health

It is with sincerest best wishes that we greet, on behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, the officers and members of the Philippine Neurological Association on the occasion of the Joint 5th Biennial ASEAN Neurological Association Convention and the 25th PNA Annual Convention.

With this convention having been postponed due compelling health threats, neurologists can sigh with relief now that this joint undertaking of the ASNA and the PNA will be finally convened. It is only right, that this convention on the theme, "Exploring New Frontiers in ASEAN Neurology," should generate excitement and support for its all encompassing scope in addressing neurological ailments in the ASEAN setting. Thus, we hail your commitment to raising the standard of neurological care in the country, particularly in its preventive and curative aspects. We encourage you as well in blazing trails for the intellectual and professional advancement of your members. This annual convention cannot be just an event but an eventful milestone.

Congratulations, *Mabuhay ang* Philippine Neurological Association.

JOSE T. SANCHEZ, M.D.
President,
Philippine Medical Association

Messages

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee for the Joint 5th ASNA Biennial Convention and the 25th Annual Convention of the Philippine Neurological Association, it is indeed my great privilege to welcome all the participants, delegates, plenary and symposium speakers and guests to the beauteous island city of Cebu.

Notwithstanding all unfortunate events of devastating impact here and around the globe, we have displayed uncommon tenacity and perseverance in pushing through with this biennial meeting come what may. It is truly a source of amazement the enthusiasm each and everyone of you have manifested and I sincerely appreciate it very much. For all the plenary and symposium speakers, who have braved all uncertainties persisting just before May, my deepest gratitude to all of you.

The scientific activities have been conceptualized to satisfy the theme for this year's convention "Exploring New Frontiers in ASEAN Neurology" with world-renowned authorities sharing their expertise and updates in their respective fields of specialties. I enjoin each and everyone to likewise sample the city's delights of sights and sounds, shopping bazaars and malls pristine beachfronts, snorkeling, scuba diving, and other water sports. Hopefully, busying ourselves with these activities might put away, even temporarily, the persisting concerns of the region and the world in general.

Again, my warmest welcome, sincere thanks and regards.

ALEJANDRO C. BAROQUE II, MD
President
ASEAN Neurological Association (ASNA)

As president of the Philippine Neurological Association, it is my honor and pleasure to bid welcome to all the delegates and speakers to the 5th BIENNIAL CONVENTION of the ASEAN NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, "Exploring New Frontiers in ASEAN Neurology and the 25th Annual Convention of the Philippine Neurological Association

We realized it would not be an easy undertaking to host this event. However, we remained undaunted and optimistic. We stayed the course and the result is a program that is relevant and meaningful to Neurology in the ASEAN region in a century that is taking off. The topics range from staples like Stroke and Headache to emerging or recently developed disciplines like Neurosonology, Angioplasty and Stenting, and Botox. Although some topics may be staples, all discussions are geared towards pushing the envelope and seeking the frontier in Neurology in our region. The speakers are all world renowned and will certainly satisfactorily address the theme of this momentous gathering

On behalf of all the Filipino neurologists, I also welcome you to our beautiful country which is known for its hospitality and warmth. May your stay occupy a place in your heart and in your fond memories long after the physical traces of this affair have gone.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND L. ESPINOSA, MD
President, PNA

On behalf of the organizing Committee, I warmly welcome all the participants and delegates to the 5th Biennial ASNA Convention and the 25th Annual Convention of the Philippine Neurological Association on November 29 to December 2, 2003.

Preparing a worthwhile International Neurology Meeting was made easy because of the overwhelming support and unselfish acceptance of renowned speakers from UK, USA, Germany, Japan, Australia and ASEAN region to come over and share their expertise with us. The holding of this meeting with it's theme "Exploring New Frontiers in ASEAN Neurology" underscores the importance of harmonizing the Asian perspective on the diagnosis and management of neurologic disorders distinct in the region.

Hopefully the expectation of our guests and participants will be met given the quality of our speakers and efforts of the organizing committee to come up with a well balanced program.

During your stay here, try to savor, the traditional Filipino hospitality and don't miss the fun and camaraderie among our colleagues during the fellowship night and other social activities.

Mabuhay and welcome to the beautiful island of Cebu.

CARLOS L. CHUA
Overall Convention Chair
5th ASNA Biennial Convention Organizing Committee

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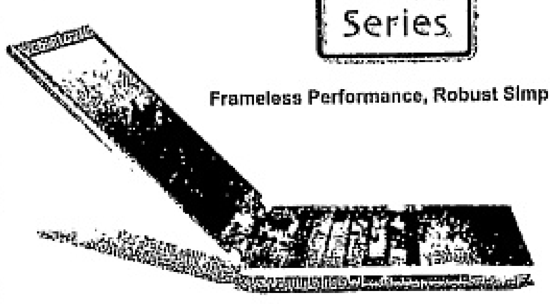

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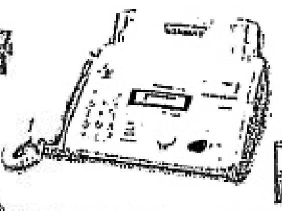

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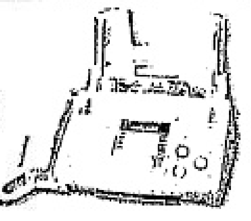

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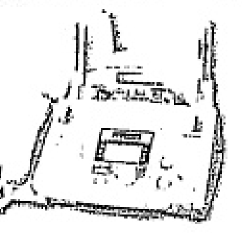

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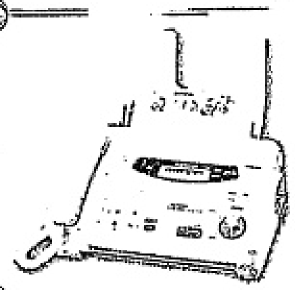

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Brutal deaths show anti-US feeling in Iraq

MOSUL, Iraq—The killings of two US soldiers who witnesses said were dragged from their car and pummeled with rocks offended some in this neighborhood of dilapidated houses and potholed streets where the deaths occurred. But few Iraqis were shocked by the brutality, and some even gloated.

"They are occupiers, and this is their punishment," truck driver Hisham Abed said of the soldiers on Monday. "The Americans make nothing but empty promises. There's no electricity, no gasoline and no work.".

Gunmen ambushed a US patrol here on Monday, wounding one soldier. Nevertheless, Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, has been among the safest areas for American soldiers, a place where US troops could stroll bustling streets and frequent stores and cafes.

Countering some Iraqi witnesses, US Army Maj. Joe Yoswa, a Pentagon spokesperson, said Monday that there was no evidence the soldiers' throats were slashed after assailants shot the two Sunday as they drove through Mosul's working class neighborhood of Ras al-Jadda, sending their vehicle crashing into a wall.

Yoswa also said there was no indication the men were beaten with rocks or that their bodies were mutilated. The official said Iraqis robbed the car they were driving and stole personal effects from the soldiers' bodies.

Witnesses said an Iraqi mob, most of them teenagers, dragged the two bloodied soldiers from the car, threw them to the ground and pummeled their bodies with concrete blocks—scenes reminiscent of the savagery in Somalia against American troops a decade ago.

A few accounts said the soldiers' throats were cut—either by the attackers or by the mob. But witness Bahaa Jassim said the wounds appeared to have come from bullets. Jassim, also a teenager, was among Iraqis who said they saw the crowd pummel the soldiers' bodies with concrete blocks.

Armed attacks have been fewer in Mosul than in the volatile "Sunni Triangle" to the south. Commerce flourishes, and Iraqis feel safe enough to venture out at night to a far greater extent than their countrymen in Baghdad and other cities.

Though anti-American feeling still simmers beneath the surface, the violence didn't sit well with everyone in Mosul.

"We have our beliefs. It's not right to maim dead bodies, even if they were our enemy's," mechanic Ahmed Yaseen said. "We're a free people and we want freedom.... But if they (the Americans) leave, the law of the jungle will prevail."

Others, however, had little sympathy for the Americans.

"They kill people and barge in on families at night," Abdullah al-Mulla, who works in a gas station, said of US forces. "If an American came to my house at night and took me away in front of my children, I would have to take revenge." *AP*

New Georgia leader sees more turmoil

TBILISI—The leader of protests that peacefully ousted President Eduard Shevardnadze warned local administrators to keep residents from taking up arms in a country with a long history of political bloodshed.

A state of emergency that Shevardnadze declared Saturday was being lifted as Georgia's new leaders pledged to hold elections within 45 days and life in Tbilisi appeared to be returning to normal on Tuesday after weeks of turmoil.

Opposition leader Mikhail Saakashvili, the popular, US-educated lawyer who is seen as a likely candidate to succeed Shevardnadze, warned Monday that there was still a potential for violence.

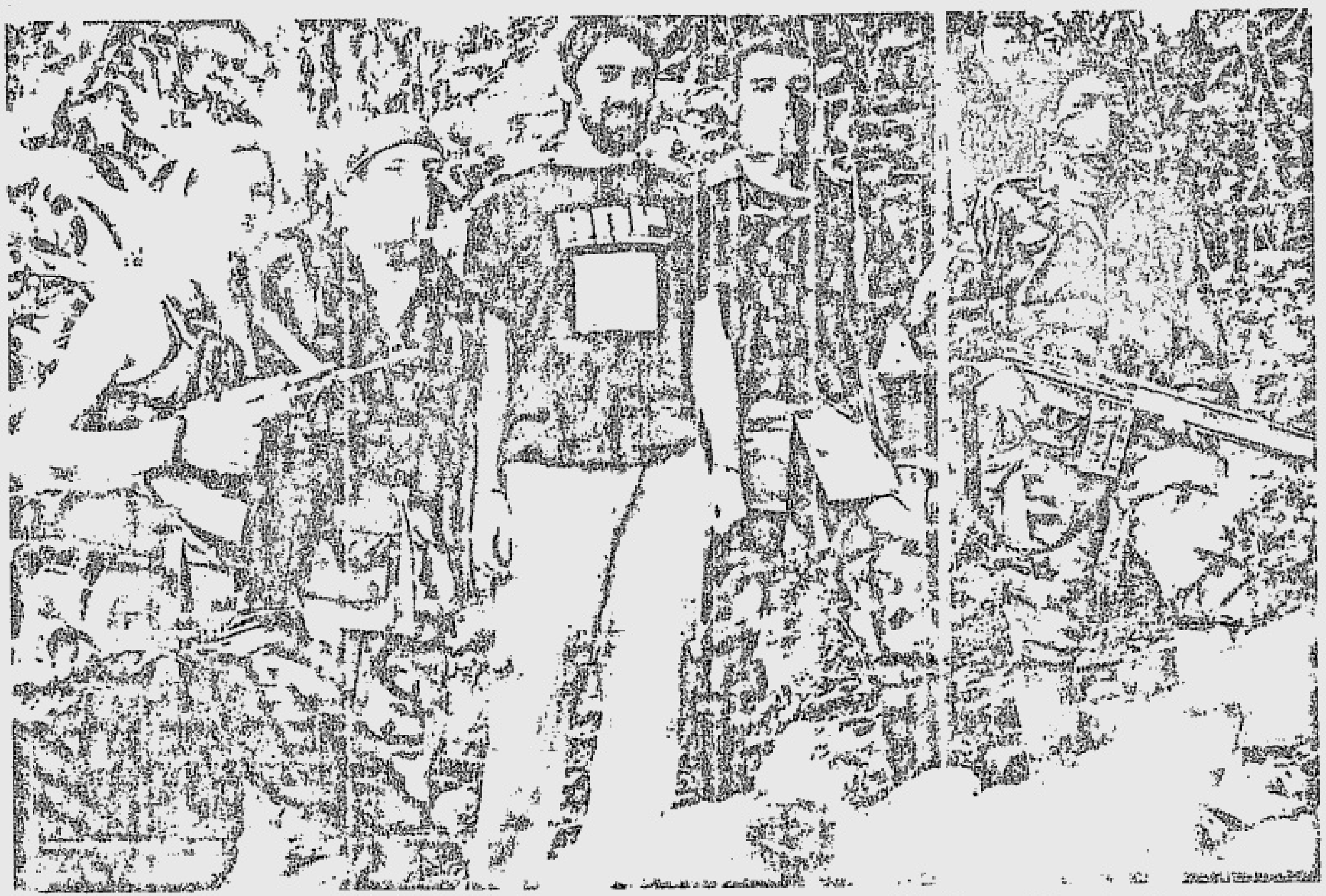
"We are calling on all local administrators to go back and assume their responsibilities and functions to prevent any kind of armed movement on our territory," Saakashvili told reporters. "I don't expect that, but it could always happen, given our history."

He did not elaborate, but his remarks seemed to be aimed at Adzharia, an autonomous province in southwestern Georgia on the Black Sea led by his archrival, Aslan Abashidze.

Abashidze, who had declared a state of emergency in the province, said Monday that Adzharia was breaking off relations with the transitional powers in the capital, Tbilisi, until a new president was elected.

"Unfortunately, the leaders of this (opposition) movement do not conceal their aggressive attitude to everything, particularly Adzharia," Abashidze was quoted as saying by Russia's Interfax news agency. "The only correct course of action is what we are doing now. The people should stand up for their interests."

Shevardnadze said he intended to remain in Georgia. He denied persistent reports that he would go into exile in Germany, where he is widely respected for his help as Soviet foreign minister in reunifying the country. *AP*



REINHILT Weigel of Germany (left) poses with an AK-47 automatic rifle under her arm, next to Asier Huegen Echeverria of Spain before their release from rebel captivity in the jungles of Colombia.

REUTERS

Colombia rebels release 2 Europeans

VALLEDUPAR, Colombia—Colombian rebels freed two European hostages, handing them over to a humanitarian commission that whisked them by helicopter from the mountains where they spent 74 days in captivity.

But there was a tragic outcome in another kidnapping case on Monday with the Army saying soldiers recovered a body believed to be that of Japanese businessman Chikao Muramatsu.

Muramatsu, an executive with the Japanese auto parts maker Yazaki Ciemel, was abducted three years ago by common criminals and later believed turned over to Colombia's largest rebel army, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

During their release in the jungle, the two Europeans smiled and stood for photos with their captors—members of Colombia's smaller rebel group, the National Liberation Army, or ELN. One hostage, Reinhilt Weigel of Germany, posed with an AK-47 automatic rifle under her arm, next to rebels wearing bandanas over their faces.

A Catholic Church official said he believed the five other kidnapped backpackers could be released before Christmas.

Weigel and Asier Huegen Echeverria of Spain, were flown by helicopter from the Sierra Nevada mountains where they were handed over to the town of Valledupar.

Huegen Echeverria, in a red T-shirt, was heavily bearded, and a smiling Weigel appeared gaunt in a blue tank top and jeans as they emerged from the helicopter, speaking on cell phones. They did not speak to reporters before taking off on a plane for a military base in Bogota.

A government human rights ombudsman said many people would be angered by the photo of Weigel holding an assault rifle.

"Another danger has opened up," Dario Mejia, secretary general of the government's human rights office, said from Bogota. "I think it would be best if she left (Colombia)."

The rebels' right-wing paramilitary foes have killed suspected guerrilla supporters and sympathizers. Mejia said he wanted to know whether Weigel was forced to pose for the picture.

The Colombian government's human rights ombudsman, Volmar Perez, said the freed captives were in good shape, even though they had endured hunger and primitive conditions in the wilderness.

"They have been freed safe and sound," said Perez, who accompanied the hostages to freedom. "They are healthy, strong and vigorous."

Gunmen of the leftist ELN abducted Weigel and Echeverria—along with two Britons and four Israelis—on Sept. 12 from the Lost City archaeological ruins in the mountains, which rise up from the Caribbean coast in northern Colombia. One of the hostages, British teenager Matthew Scott, escaped days later by hurling himself down a precipice. *AP*

9 accomplices in Istanbul blasts charged

ISTANBUL—Moving swiftly to hunt down the perpetrators of deadly bombings in Istanbul, a Turkish court Tuesday charged nine people as accomplices to the suicide bombers who set off explosions at the British consulate and a British bank.

Eight were charged with being members of an illegal organization, while one was accused of aiding and abetting an illegal organization. The charges came after several hours of questioning.

The suspects covered their heads with jackets and coats as they arrived at the court on Monday. A police line held back a crowd of shouting relatives, including several women wearing black *chadors*, the all-covering garment rarely worn in downtown Istanbul.

The charges came just five days after the bombings of the British consulate and the headquarters of the London-based HSBC bank in Istanbul.

Fifty-seven people, including the bombers, died in those attacks and the bombings of two synagogues in the city on Nov. 15.

The charges are punishable by up to five years in prison, and no trial date was set. Three other suspects were released, defense lawyer Selahattin Karahan said.

Authorities earlier charged five people with "attempting to overthrow the constitutional structure" for their alleged roles in the synagogue bombings. A sixth person was charged with "helping illegal organizations."

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in a nationally televised address on the eve of the religious holiday ending the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, appealed to Turks to resist terrorism.

"This is a war between justice and cruelty, good and bad, and true and false, it is our right to expect every sensible person to stand by justice, good and truth in this war," Erdogan said. *AP*

MUHAMMAD: Same flinty look

AFP

Jury chooses death for Washington sniper

VIRGINIA BEACH, Virginia—A jury has decided that John Allen Muhammad should be executed for taking it upon himself to choose who should live and who should die during the sniper attacks that gripped the Washington area for three terrifying weeks last year.

The enigmatic Muhammad reacted on Monday with the same flinty look he had through most of the trial.

The jury deliberated more than five hours over two days before deciding the fate of Muhammad, a 42-year-old Gulf War veteran who masterminded the attacks and asked police to "call me God" during the reign of terror.

The jury's recommendation is not final. Judge Leroy F. Millette Jr. can reduce the punishment to life in prison without parole when Muhammad is formally sentenced on Feb. 12, but Virginia judges rarely take such action.

Some jurors said the lack of any emotion or remorse from Muhammad, combined with the broad scope and violence of the shootings, convinced them that the death penalty was the only option.

"I looked for something in him that might have shown remorse," said juror Robert Elliott. "And I never saw it the whole time."

The jury concluded that prosecutors proved both aggravating factors necessary to impose the death penalty: that Muhammad would pose a danger and that his crimes were wantonly vile. Muhammad was sentenced to death on both counts he was convicted of last Monday: committing multiple murders within three years and committing murder as part of a plot to terrorize the public.

"They took pleasure in terrorizing people," prosecutor Paul Ebert said Monday of Muhammad and fellow suspect Lee Boyd Malvo. "They took pleasure in killing people. That's the kind of man that doesn't deserve to be in society."

The jurors looked solemn as they came back with their decision; Muhammad stood ramrod straight as he listened. The courtroom was silent; the judge had warned against any outbursts.

Prosecutors had depicted Muhammad as a ruthless murderer who was "captain of a killing team," and they presented evidence of 16 shootings, including 10 deaths, in Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, Louisiana and Washington, DC. Muhammad could be prosecuted in those jurisdictions as well.

When he and 18-year-old Malvo were arrested on Oct. 24, 2002, various jurisdictions scrambled to prosecute them. Ultimately, Attorney General John Ashcroft sent the two to Virginia, citing the state's ability to impose "the ultimate sanction." *AP*

Roh vetoes probe of aides in graft

SEOUL—President Roh Moo-hyun on Tuesday vetoed a bill proposing the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate corruption allegations against his former aides.

Earlier this month, South Korea's opposition-controlled National Assembly passed the legislation to name an independent investigator to look into whether three former aides had accepted bribes and were involved in illegal fund-raising.

On Tuesday, Roh rejected the measure and sent it back to the National Assembly, immediately drawing criticism from the opposition parties. Roh said a probe currently under way by the state's prosecutors' office had yet to finish and that it was premature to appoint independent counsel.

"A special probe takes place when state prosecutors avoid investigation, or when the outcome of the investigation is incomplete," Roh said. Therefore, "I request the National Assembly to reconsider the bill."

The main opposition Grand National Party has said an independent probe will highlight the shady dealings of Roh's former aides, and believes it will aid the party in parliamentary polls scheduled for next April.

The opposition party also warned that it may call for the president to be impeached if Roh vetoed the bill. The opposition can override that veto by securing the support of two-thirds of the assembly.

On Tuesday, the GNP criticized Roh's decision as an "act of violence against democracy," but only said it "will strongly fight with all means until democracy and constitutionalism are normalized in Republic of Korea." *AP*

ROH under fire

Sex abuse charges a big lie, says Jackson

LOS ANGELES—Pop superstar Michael Jackson on Monday took to the Internet to denounce child sex abuse charges against him as "a big lie" and vowed to clear his name.

In a statement addressed to "fans, friends and family," Jackson acknowledged that allegations of "lewd and lascivious behavior with a child under 14" are "terribly serious."

"They are, however, predicated on a big lie," Jackson wrote in the statement which was published on the Michael Jackson website, www.mjnews.us. "This will be shown in court, and we will be able to put this horrible time behind us."

Jackson said he could not comment much more about the case, which is expected to lead to one of the most sensational celebrity court trials ever, although that silence would no doubt "be frustrating for all of us."

"Because the charges are so serious, I hope you all will understand, on the advice of my attorneys, I will be limited in what I can say about the situation," Jackson said.

"We intend to try our case in the courtroom, not in the public or the media," Jackson said.

The 45-year-old father of three was charged Thursday with multiple counts of child molesting. He was taken in handcuffs taken to Santa Barbara sheriff's department in California in the full glare of the world's press.

Jackson posted a $3-million bail and then traveled to Las Vegas where he holed up in a luxury hotel. Police raided Jackson's Neverland ranch near Santa Barbara last Tuesday.

But Jackson's family and friends have rallied around the singer.

Oscar-winning actress Elizabeth Taylor was the latest to defend her longtime friend in a statement released on Sunday that insisted Jackson was being unfairly convicted by the media.

"I believe that Michael is absolutely innocent and that he will be vindicated," the 71-year-old star said, slamming the press for its "abominable" behavior in painting Jackson as guilty although he will make his first court appearance only on Jan. 9.

"I believed that the law was 'innocent until proven guilty.' I know he is innocent and I hope they all eat crow," Taylor added.

Jackson has been dogged by longstanding suspicions about his close relations with children. In 1993 he was accused of having abused a 13-year-old boy.

No criminal charges were made after Jackson and the boy's family reached a settlement reportedly worth between $15 million to $40 million.

Newsweek magazine reported that the latest boy accusing Jackson is a cancer survivor who appeared in a British documentary about Jackson shown in February in which the singer said he had slept in the same bed with the boy, although both denied anything sexual took place.

Los Angeles Comedy Club owner Jamie Masada told the "Extra" entertainment television show on Monday he had introduced the ailing boy to Jackson but was now questioning whether he did the right thing.

Saying he did not believe the boy and his family were "after any kind of money," he said that if the allegations against Jackson prove to be true, he would "feel really guilty because I was the person who brought them together." *AFP*

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Global warming

SYDNEY—Levels of methane, the second most important greenhouse gas responsible for global warming, have stopped increasing in the global background atmosphere and could even begin to fall, Australian scientists announced Tuesday. Researchers at the government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) described the findings of their study as exciting although they admit to being unsure why it is happening. The research, conducted by the CSIRO's greenhouse gas monitoring facility at Cape Grim on the southern island state of Tasmania, shows there has been no growth in the gas over the last four years after a 15-percent rise in the preceding 20 years and a 150-percent rise since pre-industrial times. *AFP*

AIDS gang busted

SHANGHAI, China—Police have detained a gang of HIV-positive pickpockets who had avoided capture by threatening to pass the virus to their victims, a newspaper reported Tuesday. The 26 pickpockets were caught this month in the eastern city of Hangzhou, southwest of Shanghai, the newspaper Youth Daily said. It said 14 of them were found to be carrying the AIDS virus. They apparently drew on public fear about AIDS to avoid capture, the newspaper said. It said that if confronted, they would shout, "Don't call the police . . . we have AIDS!" *AP*

PM's nephew charged

PHNOM PENH—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's nephew Nim Sophea was charged in a Phnom Penh court Tuesday over a shooting spree in the capital last month that left three people dead and four wounded. "We have charged him and we are detaining him," investigating judge Hing Thirith told reporters. Earlier Phnom Penh deputy police chief Heng Poe said 22-year-old Nim Sophea had been arrested for the Oct. 28 shootings and would be charged with intentional murder and negligent driving. "We allege that he was the gunman but Nim Sophea is denying this," Heng Poe said. *AFP*

Japan terror drill

TOKYO—Amid deepening jitters that Japan may become a target of terrorists, government officials on Tuesday held a drill simulating massive casualties in an urban chemical attack on a Tokyo suburb. About 170 officials from the Cabinet secretariat, police, defense and other agencies, prefectural (state) and city officials were to spend four hours in the simulated chemical attack on Kawasaki city, where there were "a substantial number" of dead and injured people, said Cabinet official Seiji Oba. *AP*

Taiwan suicides up

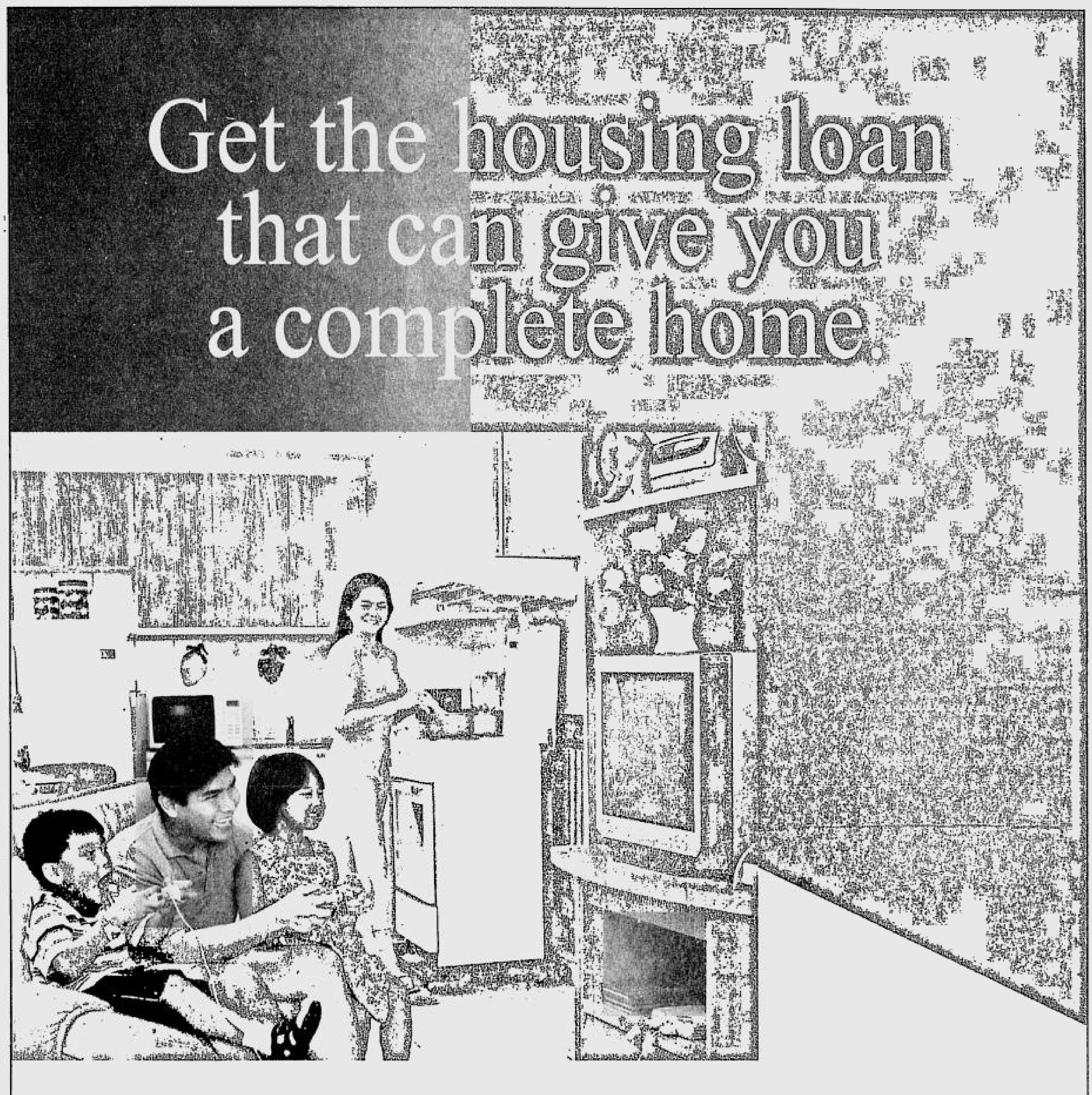
TAIPEI—Three days after he was diagnosed with liver cancer, Lin Wen-piao mixed a deadly dose of pesticide with milk and yogurt and fed it to his young son and two daughters before drinking some of the mixture himself. Their deaths in September shocked Taiwan and made front-page news. Many sympathized with the 52-year-old unemployed construction worker in the southern city of Kaohsiung, though they were puzzled that he killed his children, ages 3, 6 and 7, instead of leaving them to his wife, who supported the family through her job at an electronics factory. But some health experts viewed the deaths as part of a trend. Taiwan has seen a rise in family suicide-homicides. In other parts of Asia, notably Japan, they stopped being oddities long ago. Some physicians and social workers say mental illness plays a big role, but they say societal changes and long-held beliefs about parental duties also are factors. *AP*

2 Santas in heist

AMSTERDAM—Santa Claus may be known for generous gift-giving, but people had to chase two of his helpers out of an Amsterdam post office after they staged a failed heist, a Dutch newspaper said. Two people dressed up as "Black Pete"—a ubiquitous symbol of the Christmas season in the Netherlands—had queued patiently, but when their turn came, one ducked behind the post office counter while the other waved "something that looked like a weapon," the De Telegraaf newspaper reported. "It isn't clear if they were really armed, but they did have a sack with them," a police spokesperson said. *Reuters*

Bomb-proof car

OSLO—Norway's prime minister cannot use his new bomb-proof car despite a threat of attack by al-Qaida because Norway's state road authority says it is too heavy. The vehicle, built by Germany's BMW AG to specifications for leaders of Nato nations, has been parked unused in a garage in Oslo since mid-October. Weighing in at around four tons because of armor-plating and thick bullet-proof windows, the car is twice as heavy as a standard BMW 760 iL model and 40 kg over the limit for registration by Norway's road authorities, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said. "We expect the problem will be solved in a week or two," Bondevik's spokesperson Oiyvind Oestang said. Making the car light enough for registration had meant cutting down on safety features, he said. *Reuters*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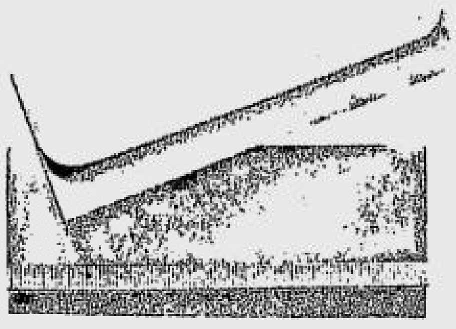
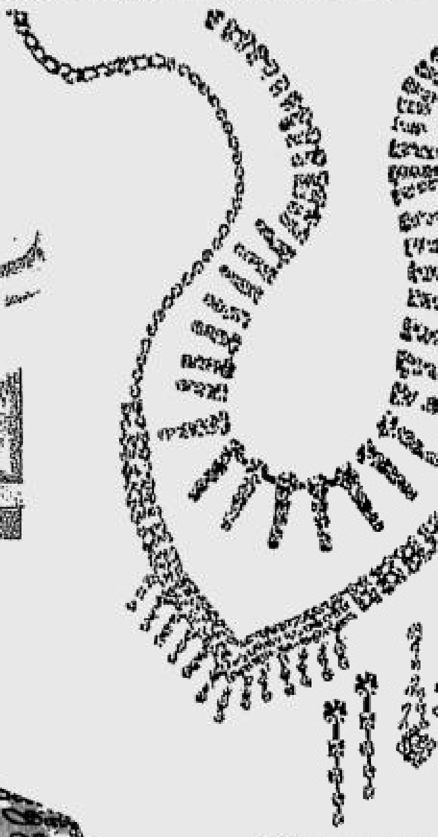


Formal Satin Clutches with detachable glitter bands



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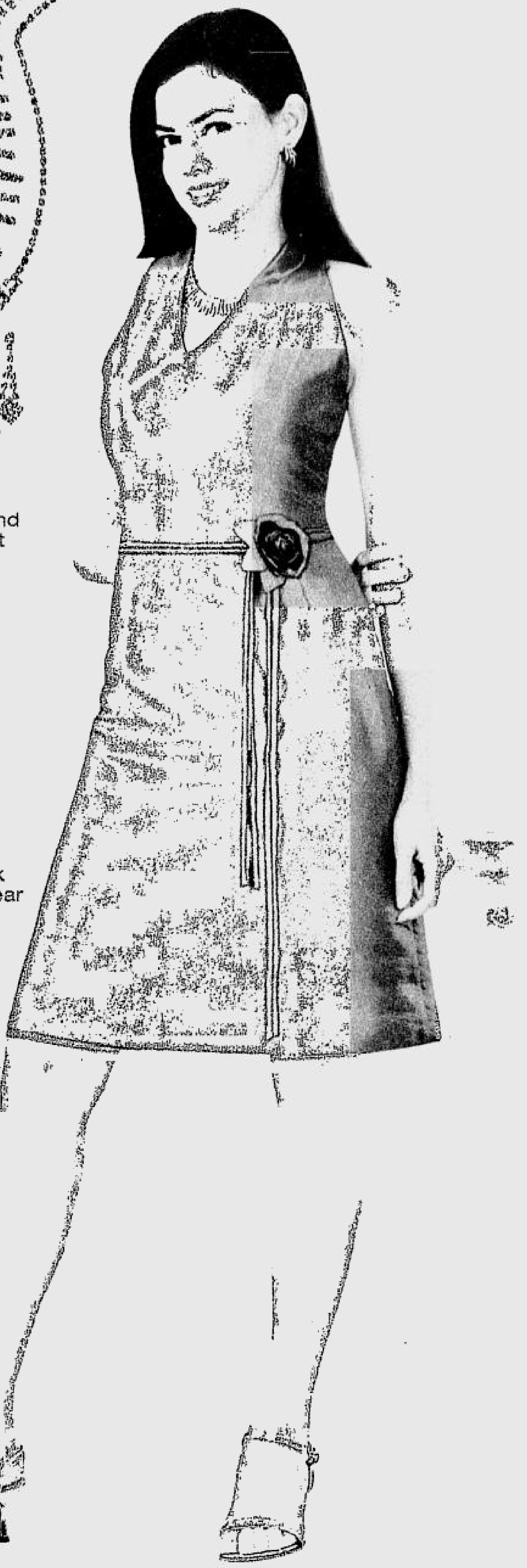

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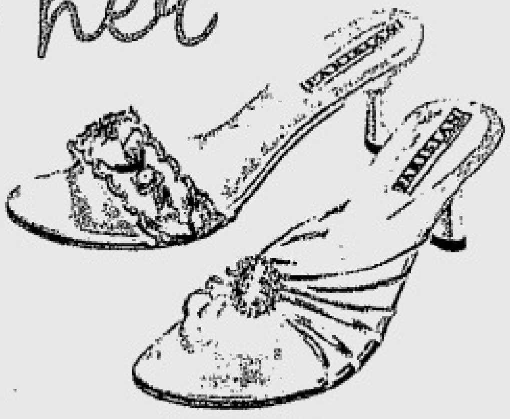

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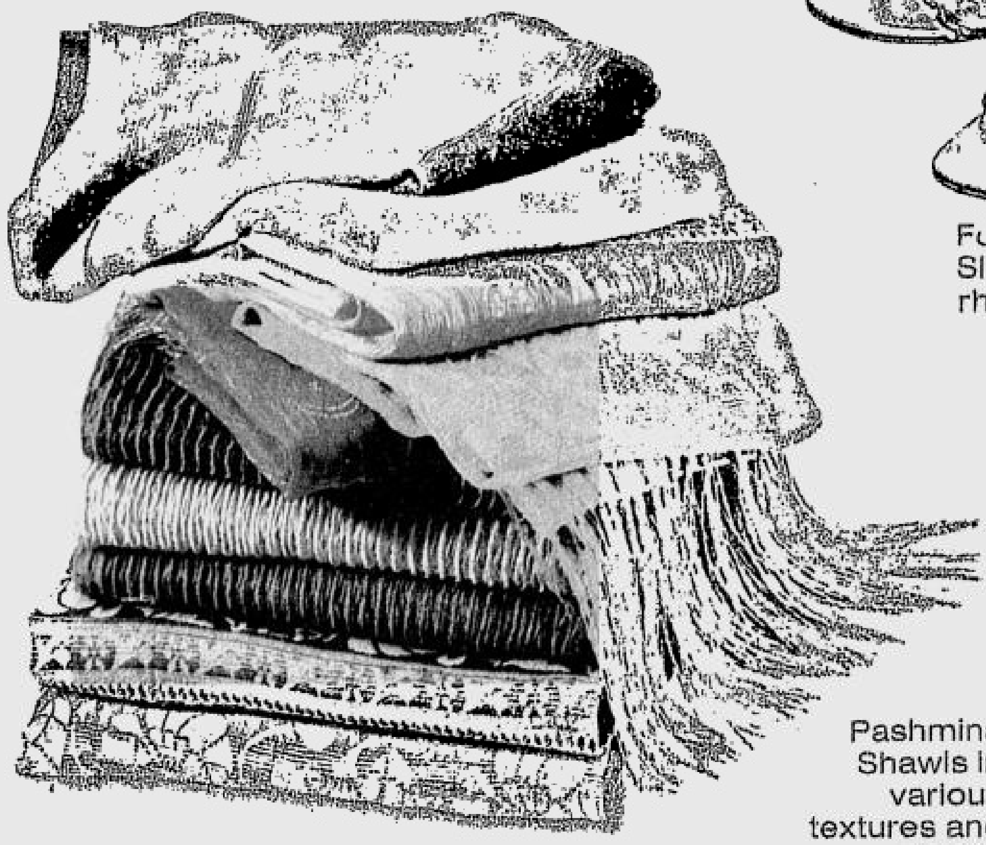

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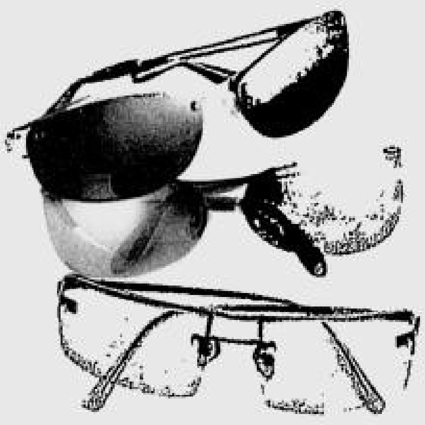
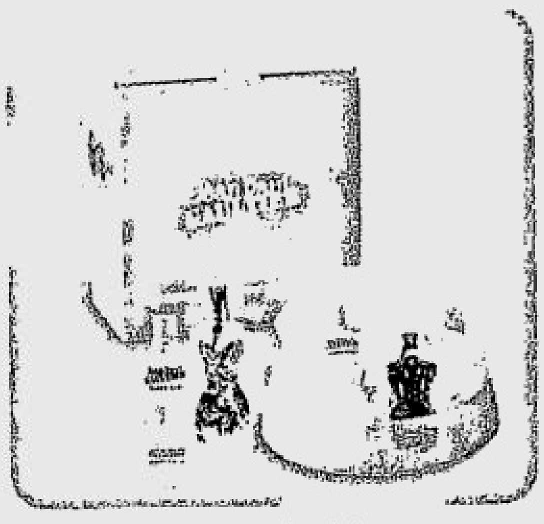


Fashion Shades



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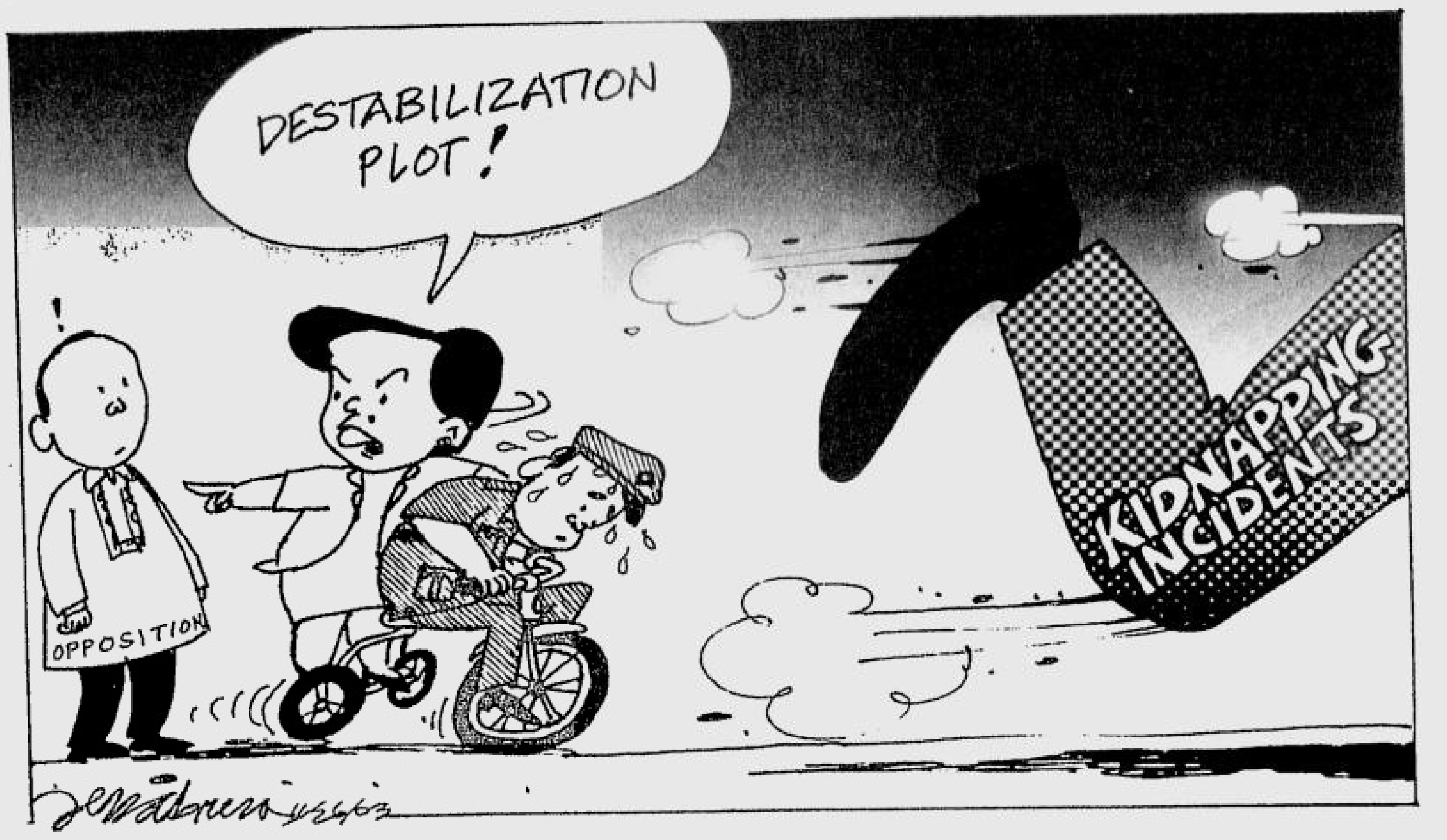


Absence of proof

EDITORIAL

FIRST it was police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, who made the claim. Now President Macapagal-Arroyo no less has said that politics is behind the spate of high-profile crimes, particularly kidnappings accompanied by other acts of violence.

"There could be a destabilization aspect in these events and we are monitoring (the situation) closely," Ms Macapagal said in a press statement Monday. She was referring to the growing number of kidnapping cases over the last two months, and particularly the kidnap-slay of Coca-Cola finance executive Betti Sy a week earlier, followed three days later by the abduction of a 10-year-old Chinese-Filipino student in Pandacan, Manila.

Her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, elaborated the theory saying that since the "political season has begun... the possibility is there that this is part of the overall destabilization attempt." He added that "considering the modus operandi" of the perpetrators, they might be acting under the direction of some people who are out to destabilize the government.

The spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, Director Ricardo de Leon, also noted the different modus operandi of the gangs that carried out the latest abductions. Normally, he said, kidnap gangs operated in silence so as not to attract too much attention. But in recent cases, he noted, "the violence they displayed is quite unusual."

All these are of a piece with the statements made a day earlier by an official involved in the government's anti-kidnapping operations. This official told the INQUIRER: "There are certain groups orchestrating everything for political purposes. It's not the money they are after. The handler, if there is any, is after the political effect of the kidnapping. It's not the money; it's more the destabilizing effect." The only difference is that while this official asked not to be identified, the President, her spokesperson and the PNP spokesperson have come forward with the same explanation for the rash of kidnappings.

Why did they feel they had to bring up this theory? Had investigators established a solid link between the kidnap gangs and some ambitious politicians or military adventurers?

Apparently not at all. Bunye admitted that the President and the police were "just raising the possibility" that there were motives other than profit, considering the unusual modus operandi of the kidnappers and the frequency of the incidents.

Of course, there is always that possibility. The first thing anyone who aims to grab power will do is stir up trouble to show up the ineptitude of the administration and make a change in leadership more attractive to the people. Even to those who want to capture power through democratic elections, bad news will always be good news. An administration that looks incapable of enforcing laws and governing effectively will be easier to defeat in the polls.

But possibilities are not certainties, and suspicions are not solutions. If indeed there is reason for the administration to believe that politicians are creating a climate of fear to promote their selfish ambitions, then the President should order law enforcement agencies to redouble their efforts to expose and smash their unholy alliance with criminal syndicates. Few things can be more terrifying than having a government run by crime lords.

Still it is less than reassuring to hear the President making speculative statements about what and who are behind the latest crime wave. In the absence of proof, such statements sound like a lame excuse for the government's inability to stem the tide of violence as well as cheap political propaganda.

Unchanged

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE BILLIONAIRE Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who is in a Moscow prison, is no little innocent. In the 1990s, as fantastic fortunes were being made overnight in Russia, Khodorkovsky was one of the most dangerous sharks in waters where only a few fish swam anyway.

But unlike other Russian tycoons, Khodorkovsky finally began to reform his business, Yukos, to meet Western standards and is, in Russian terms, pretty much an exemplary taxpayer.

The campaign against Yukos undoubtedly results from a direct order from Russian President Vladimir Putin. His declared goal is to build up Russia's economy, but of course that's only good as long as the Kremlin's monopoly on power is not affected. In this case, Putin is forcing real or imagined enemies to their knees.

The Khodorkovsky case is probably only the start. But it should serve to put right those optimists who believe that Russia under Putin has fundamentally changed for the better.

Der Bund (Bern, Switzerland)

A death in the family

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THAT was a very painful loss, the death by suicide of the youngest son of former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and her husband, former Interior Undersecretary Narciso Santiago Jr.

My heart went out to her as she lost control of her emotions in front of television cameras. Tears streaming down her face and barely able to talk as sobs wracked her body, she related how her "baby," Alexander Robert or AR, only 22 years old, probably shot himself because of "cruel questions" thrown at him by professors during an interview for admission to the University of the Philippines College of Law.

He was asked what he thought of the charge that "his mother was insane," and did he know how much his father bet on cockfights. "How can you ask such cruel questions of a young man?" the former senator cried. Obviously, the professors didn't like his answers, for they denied him admission although he passed the written examinations.

"Apparently, they were no fans of mine," the grieving mother said. We look at teachers as learned individuals and paragons of virtue, but that shows you they can also be haters, hypocrites and cruel.

That probably started AR's slide to depression that worsened at the Ateneo Law School. On the day he learned he flunked constitutional law, AR shot himself in the head.

What makes the tragedy more painful is the fact that mother and son were very close, as she herself related the many happy times they had together. I wouldn't wish that tragedy to happen to my worst enemy. I can empathize with Miriam because I am probably as close to my three children, had many happy times with them as children and as adults and love them so much I would gladly give my own life to save theirs. I would probably die of grief should something bad happen to any one of them. That was why my heart felt like bursting as I watched Miriam cry her own heart out on TV, and wish I could tell her that millions out there know how she felt and wish they could do something to ease her pain.

AR's tragedy should teach us that high-achieving parents, without their realizing it, can sometimes put extreme pressure on their children. Miriam's excellent academic record and professional career obviously put extreme pressure on AR to live up to that record, and when he failed, he cracked. I think that is also one reason some children become the "black sheep" of the family or problem children. They cannot keep up with their parents or their siblings and they rebel.

Guidance counselors tell us to accept our children as they are and not to put too much pressure on them to achieve goals beyond their abilities. Enjoy them while you can, for life is too short, they say. But in our desire to make our children succeed, we often forget this sensible advice.

AR's tragedy should also teach teachers to be kinder and less cruel to their students. Students love and respect—until adulthood and even old age—teachers who were kind to them and who taught them valuable lessons. But some teachers prefer to be remembered as "terror professors." UP is especially notorious for them. They mistakenly think that it gives them more prestige if students fear them. But anybody with a common sense knows that love and respect, not fear, encourage students to study and learn. Fear, I think, is used only by those with feelings of inferiority.

* * *

AR's tragedy teaches us one more valuable lesson, said a member of the Gunless Society. It is that a gun in the house is a danger more to members of the family than to intruders. How ironic it is that a gun acquired to protect the family would become the instrument to cause the death of a beloved member of that family.

How many times have we heard of children finding their father's handgun in the cabinet, playing with it and accidentally shooting one of them? Or a couple having a violent quarrel ending with one of them shooting the other? Or a jealous wife intentionally shooting her husband or vice versa? Or a son quarreling with his father and shooting him? Or the man of the house quarreling with a neighbor and killing him? Or a driver involved in a traffic accident shooting the other driver? Or, in the greatest tragedy of all, a member of the family killing himself with his father's gun.

So many. There are fewer stories of family members shooting a burglar or robber in the house. In short, except in a war, guns kill more people unintentionally. And as in the case of AR, sometimes kill those whom we love most.

AR would probably be still alive today if the Santiago family didn't have guns in the house. The Santiagos were not careless. They were trained how to handle guns. They took shooting lessons. They had regular target practice. They were a family to whom a gun accident was unlikely to happen. Still, that tragedy happened. All because there was a gun in the family possession.

A gun was made to kill, Gunless Society's Nandy Pacheco keeps repeating. And kill it usually does, both intentionally and accidentally. Without guns, the world would be a safer place.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: This is a funny, but true, story.

Back in the days when taipan Lucio Tan didn't yet own Philippine Airlines, he usually flew "economy," not "business" or "first class," despite his millions, when he traveled all over the world.

Asked why, his answer shows why he became a multi-billionaire and others did not.

"Economy, first class?" Tan said. "They arrive at the same time."

Corrections

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SEVERAL friends texted me last Monday asking me why I thought "Homecoming" "will not assuredly" be talked about and debated, as I wrote in my column. I was startled. I looked at my column and saw that that indeed was what appeared there. The second to the last line said, "It ("Homecoming") will NOT assuredly be talked about and debated." I went back to my original and saw that what I had written was "It will MOT assuredly be talked about and debated." I forgot the "S," I meant "most" of course. What can I say? The mind is most assuredly faster than the hand—or I am most assuredly getting old. The editor changed the "MOT" to "NOT" with the most horrendous implications for the movie. My apologies to those who made it. I do mean that "Homecoming" WILL be discussed and debated—it is a MOST thought-provoking movie. Go see it.

But while at this, I may as well go on to say something about the universe of meanings one single letter holds. Some readers have also pointed out to me on at least a couple of occasions that I've spelled "public" as "pubic," as in "pubic office." Most of the eagle-eyed readers who spotted it allowed for slip of the fingers, but one reader wondered seriously if it might not be a slip of the mind. She asked if I did not have a more deep-seated problem to roister my unconscious to dredge up this mistake. Maybe I was a little impoverished in certain respects of late?

I do not now recall if she went on to propose to do something about it, if true. What can I say? I don't know what other words I tend to mistype regularly to counter her argument. "L," the letter I miss out in "public" does not exactly lie in the far-flung borders of the keyboard, home only to raids by the index finger. It is the province of the ring finger, which does not rule weakly. On the other hand, I cannot agree that if I were impoverished in certain respects, I would display my symptoms in a loud public (or pubic) literary cry for help.

But maybe it is a slip of the mind in quite another respect. Maybe I keep saying "pubic office" instead of "public office" because of some deep-seated feelings that demand to surface. I can most assuredly think of one connection between "public office" and "pubic office." Pubic is the area that is near (and dear to) assholes.

Still, on the subject of the one letter that holds a universe of meaning, I've always kidded a friend of mind about why she should be mad about an article of hers that carried a misprint. After all, I said, the magazine that printed her article misprinted only one letter.

This was in the days of the dear old Underwood, before the PC invaded the earth from outer space, or cyberspace. My friend wrote an article about a nun who was then (and now) a pillar of the human rights movement, a courageous and indefatigable defender of the abused and aggrieved. My friend ended her lengthy article with a sentence paragraph that read: "For Sister So-and-So, there is no time to lose." But the typesetter mistyped it, so that the clincher read: "For Sister So-and-So, there is no time to love."

* * *

It never fails. Every time I say that Edward Lansdale was the source of inspiration of "The Quiet American," I always get letters from readers telling me maybe I mean "The Ugly American." Not at all. I most assuredly mean "The Quiet American."

"The Ugly American" was a book written by Eugene Burdick and William Lederer in 1958, which detailed American bungling in Southeast Asia, the product of arrogance, incompetence and corruption. Its stories showed how the United States was losing the war against communism there. The book became a best-seller and sounded a wake-up call for the United States to reexamine its policies abroad, particularly in Asia.

It was turned into a movie in the 1950s, starring Marlon Brando, which got very tepid reviews and was soon forgotten. The title of the book itself however has gone on to have a very long shelf life. It has become the catchphrase for American hubris, and continues to be used to this day. Increasingly so since George W. Bush took over, or hijacked, America. The phrase has no better referent.

"The Ugly American" was not however about Lansdale. "The Quiet American," Graham Greene's novel, is. I've read it, which clearly my readers who have been correcting me in that respect have not. Greene, a journalist-turned-novelist, met Lansdale, the CIA operative who helped propel Ramon Magsaysay to the presidency here, and was struck both by his idealism and capacity for destruction, the second being a function of the first. Greene's novel is set in Vietnam, and it tells the story of a well-educated, well-bred, American CIA operative who screws that nation out of lofty delusions. Its theme, expressly put forward on several occasions, is that the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

The "quiet" in the title is both literal and ironic. Quiet people can be very ugly too.

* * *

A reader remonstrates with me over my calling football "soccer." "Soccer," he says, is an American delusion. It is the term Americans use to refer to the game the world plays to differentiate it from American football, for which they want to reserve the term "football," which has as much relation to feet as track-and-field has to geometry. Stop calling football "soccer," he says, call it football. As to American "football," he says, call it what you will. But to call it "football" is to show the effects all that tackling is doing to the brain.

What can I say? *Mea culpa*. I have been a sucker for "soccer." I forthwith resolve to banish it from my vocabulary.

Worn thin

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE PESO sank to P55.585 to the US dollar following the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho last Friday, hitting its lowest exchange rate since the political turmoil during the collapse of the Estrada administration in January 2001.

The peso's fall reflected uncertainty over the continuity of fiscal reforms designed to enhance revenue collection to arrest the swelling deficit, which has been the focus of concern of the investment and business community. It was further fueled by another uncertainty of a political kind—over the fluidity of the selection of presidential candidates in the 2004 elections.

The resignation came at the time when economic news was being driven out by escalating political news about the election campaign, and this indicates that in the next few weeks in the run-up to the elections, the deficit will take the backseat to the election developments. The fear that the deficit might spin out of control from unbridled government election spending after Camacho's resignation is unfounded.

The officer in charge of the finance department, Undersecretary Juanita Amatong, is a technocrat, known to be a stickler for fiscal discipline, and is expected to continue the non-political approach of Camacho. If there should at all be political pressure exerted on the finance department to loosen control on election-related spending, such pressure will likely fall also on Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who is as tight on the purse as Amatong.

The 2004 budget is a "flat budget," only marginally larger than the 2003 budget, which offers little room for abuse in election-related spending that will inflate the deficit to fiscally unacceptable proportions.

Camacho has explained that his resignation was not a snap decision. He had discussed the resignation with President Macapagal-Arroyo as early as last June, and it had been deferred by the July military mutiny, and so he was looking for the "right time" to quit. This is the right time, he says, politics was beginning to get into the chances of passing in Congress two key fiscal legislation, designed to enhance revenue collections—the indexation of excise taxes and the National Revenue Authority (Nara) administrative reform.

These reform measures were stalled in Congress as the election fever began to heat up. They were caught up in congressional resistance and could not move. In the face of the congressional and presidential elections, congressmen are loath to pass new tax laws and tax increases. These measures are unpopular.

Congress will begin its recess by Dec. 19, to resume in the New Year. This means that key legislative reforms face a deep freeze until after the elections. By January, candidates for the presidency will be formally proclaimed and the nation's attention will be exclusively focused on the elections.

Whatever limited success Camacho and the commissioners of internal revenue and of customs have achieved in increasing collections, these were below targets and it is undeniable that the tax measures were necessary to enhance the government's revenue-generating capacity. Camacho has grown tired after running into resistance to reforms. He says there was no "last straw" that broke the camel's back, but clearly his tolerance to capricious legislative harassment was worn thin in early November when he walked out together with other executive government officials after they were subjected to gruelling interrogations by House committees scrutinizing the 2004 budget, in hearings that did not follow timetables.

What is of more concern to the foreign investment community is the fate of the reform legislation bottled up in Congress—a matter of longer term importance than just the immediate concern of election free-spending on the budget, although raids on the budget could worsen the deficit. Camacho had feared that if he continued at the finance department, he could not have done much to pull the reform measures out of the congressional hole. Also, he feared that given the acrimonious atmosphere of the 2004 election campaign, he could be caught in the cross-fire and it has begun to develop that the deficit was looming as a political issue against the Macapagal administration.

The resignation of Camacho has shaken business confidence in the economy over uncertainty in the fiscal management direction, as well as in the type of political leadership that will emerge from the 2004 elections. It also shows that when politics gain salience over economics, technocrats, like Camacho, lose their value in stabilizing the economy. They become irrelevant.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura has warned that, "We will continue to experience some more volatility in the coming days but it should eventually subside once investors are convinced that government remains serious in its economic and fiscal program, especially in managing the budget deficit." Buenaventura, however, does not ignore the political factor in fostering uncertainty.

He has acknowledged that uncertainty over economic policy and direction beyond 2004 has been responsible for the volatility of the currency and stock markets in the run-up to the elections.

Like a second shadow

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LIKE other crimes, rape has ramifications that reach way beyond the victim—or the perpetrator, for that matter.

Also bearing part of the trauma, grief, anger, fear, stress and distress from the experience are the victim's loved ones, her family but especially her parents or husband, if married. Her children, if she can bear to tell them. As well as her friends, colleagues and others in her life.

Rarely does rape leave lingering scars, save perhaps in the mind and in one's relationships. But the memory of it, and the inevitable feelings of shame, disgrace and violation—which come flooding in despite what feminists and psychologists say—will most likely stay around, haunting the rape survivor like a second shadow.

I met recently with a young woman and her parents who wanted to share her story partly, they admitted, to "even the odds" against the accused rapist and the institution that seems to be supporting him. But also, it seemed to me, they wanted—needed—to ventilate their feelings, to find some validation not just for the young woman's account of the night the assault took place, but also for their continuing struggle with their own conflicted emotions.

"I feel so helpless," confesses the father. "I have been calling everybody, from hell to heaven, everybody I can trust, just to air my feelings." But even as they declare determination to bring the perpetrator to justice, they and their daughter also express apprehension about the story making the rounds, especially in their hometown. Thus their request to keep their identities hidden.

Here then is the story of a crime that has yet to be recognized as such and resolved by the appropriate body. But more than that, it is the story of a young woman who dares take on an institution in her search for justice, and who refuses to let even this crisis derail her from her goals.

* * *

OUR story begins in a city in Mindanao, where the young lady, whom we shall call F, grew up, the eldest in a family of three girls and a boy. "She was rather sheltered, if not over-protected," her mother admits wryly. She was not allowed to go out on dates nor have a boyfriend, "but I was not a nerd!" she protests. Though bright and scholarly, she was also outgoing and had trained in jazz dancing.

"Maybe it was partly to escape my parents" is her explanation for her determination to go to college in Manila, specifically in the University of the Philippines. She was in fact eyeing a career in dance or performing arts when the offer came for her to take part in UP's Intarmed program.

Offered to the top 50 applicants who hurdled the nationwide and very competitive Upcat, the Intarmed program fast-tracks a student's passage through the undergraduate medical preparatory program, allowing a student to start taking classes in medicine as early as third year.

"I felt challenged," F confesses, so, overcoming her parents' concerns about the extraordinary demands of her course, she enrolled in the Intarmed program.

* * *

IT was during her fifth year, as an integrated clinical clerk, that F met Dr. M, a physician and resident at the PGH, assigned to the Orthopedic Surgery department.

F was on "rotation" at the department in March last year when she and her blockmates were invited to the "Friday Club," apparently a weekly drinking spree that the "Ortho" department hosted.

By way of background, the Orthopedic Surgery department, says F, has the reputation of being "macho" territory, at that time being staffed almost wholly by male doctors, with only one woman resident.

"My barkada in class thought of attending the affair just to pay respect to our seniors... on condition that we will not stay long due to our exam the following day," F recounts in a sworn affidavit. Despite her misgivings, mainly because of the department's reputation and her desire to study for the next day's exam, F allowed herself to be convinced to join the party. A blockmate had told her the doctors would be giving "tips" about the forthcoming exam.

* * *

ARRIVING at the party, held at the ortho department itself, around 10 p.m., F found out that aside from herself only one other female clerk, J, could make it to the affair. "There were so many people," she recounts, "I think one of the residents was also celebrating his birthday that night... People were smoking, drinking, eating and having fun. There was also music."

At one point, a consultant called all the students to gather around a table and, demanding "payment" for the exam tips given out that evening, cajoled them to take part in a round of "bottoms up" and "body shots."

The last is apparently a drinking ritual in which glasses of tequila are passed around but, instead of licking salt from one's hand, the drinker is supposed to lick salt from a body part of another, usually a member of the opposite sex.

Though unfamiliar with the ritual and uncomfortable, F decided to play along, especially after the other women in the room took part.

It was around this time that Dr. M joined the party. It was only the second time for F to meet him. Another doctor approached Dr. M with a bottle of gin and a shotglass then "everyone teased (him) to do body shots with me. (The other doctor) held my arm, pulled me despite my obvious physical resistance, pulled the collar of my blouse off my left shoulder and put salt (on it). (Dr. M) licked it while I squirmed, and he took a shot... I told (Dr. M), 'You know, no one has ever done that to me before.' The residents were sort of congratulating him or something."

Still, the night was far from over. Before sunrise, Dr. M would be taking even worse liberties with F.

Historian's job is never done

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TODAY my students have a break. No class. We have a new holiday declared to mark the end of Ramadan. The holiday made me stop and remember that there are people of other faiths in this predominantly Christian country. That alone should be a small step toward inter-faith dialogue and mutual understanding but then holidays come and go, sidestepped by other pleasures. Unfortunately for me, holidays this year skirted my teaching days, leaving me with less time for reflection.

This weekend, despite the loss of yet another holiday, people will remember Andres Bonifacio and how he jump-started the Philippine Revolution in 1896. The National Historical Institute and other partners will oversee the "traditional" floral offerings in Bonifacio monuments in Manila and Caloocan, a commemoration in the Maragondon house where he was tried and sentenced to death for treason. Some hardy souls will undertake a trek up Tirad Pass to remember, not Bonifacio, but Gregorio del Pilar. Holidays do give us pause from our labors and provide a window for remembering even if we are all set to just spend an idle day at home or head for the nearest mall for a movie. Nov. 30 is the feast of Saint Andrew, thus our hero born on that day in 1863 was christened Andres.

This is quite amusing because one of the heavenly protectors of Spanish Manila was San Andres and yet it was Andres Bonifacio that challenged not just Spanish Manila but the whole idea of the Philippines being under a foreign power. Textbook history gives us an organized summary of the events of the past 1,000 years, making people think history is rather easy. What most people do not realize is that historians have to plow through many trees before he can describe the forest.

For example, August 1896 is known as a period of tumult and you would think that a compulsive diarist and letter writer like Jose Rizal would provide material on this. Contrary to popular belief, the correspondence between Rizal and his family is quite mundane. The revolution is brewing but Rizal was bored, imprisoned on board the Spanish cruiser Castilla off Manila Bay. In transit, before taking a steamer from Manila to Spain, he was not allowed to disembark and visit his home and family so he requested food and personal effects. His partner Josephine Bracken, "has sent me the swallow-tailed coat (that I don't need) but she did not include either the trousers or the vest." In a letter to his sister Narcisa, he asked for: cuffs, collars, stamps, four pieces of good quality Laguna cheese, 24 mangoes, lanzones and three pots of foie gras.

Josephine's letters to her "dear Joe" have survived and aside from the *bilin* we read much more. On Aug. 13, 1896 she wrote:

"Ah! My dear I am suffering a great deal with them in Trozo, it is quite true they ought to be ashamed of me as they say in my face and in Presenance *[sic]* of Sra. Narcisa and their children because I am not married to you. So if you heare *[sic]* that I don't go to Trozo any more don't be suprized *[sic]*, if you like me to send all your things on board of the man of war I can do so. If you go to Spain you see any one of your fancy you better marry her, but dear heare *[sic]* me better marry than to live like we have been doing. I am not ashamed to let people know my life with you but as your dear Sisters are ashamed I think you had better get married to some one else. Your sister Narcisa and your Father they are very good and kind to me."

Reading between the lines one can sense that while the lovers are physically separated all is not well between Josephine and the Rizal family. On Aug. 17 she wrote that she tried to see the governor general who was down with a cold and couldn't receive her, then she unburdened herself:

"I know my dear it breakes *[sic]* my heart to go and bid you good bye! But! Dear what can I do; than to suffer until the Good God brings you back to me again. Your sister Choling came to visit me yesterday and she wants to give me her daughter Maria Luisa, she says she had great confidence in me, well I told her for my part I am quite willing and satisfied but I have to communicate with you first if you are willing, I have also many pupils, about fifteen at three dollars each and I am also studying Piano $4 a month in Doña Maria's house, one of my pupils. Dear I have to do something like that because I am always sorry thinking of you Oh! Dear how I miss you. I will always be good and faithful to you, and also do good to my companions so that the good God will bring you back to me. I will try all my best to be good to your family especially to your dear old parents. 'The hands that we cannot lift up and kiss or adore that hand that gives the blow.' How it made the tears flow from my eyes when I read those few lines of you. Say, darling, say it makes me think of our dear old hut in Dapitan and the many sweet [h]ours we have passed there.

"Love I will love you ever, love I will leave thee never, ever to me precious to thee never to part heart bound to heart or never to say good bye.

"So my darling receive many warm affection and love. From Your ever faithfull *[sic]* and true till death Josephine Bracken."

While holidays and textbooks distill the past into easily digestible parts, history is the sum of many little stories like Rizal's love in the time of revolution.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Three over 60

HIGH BLOOD

Jokee Botor-Reyes

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

I JUST got back from a regular tête-à-tête with two of my closest friends whose ages are over 60 just like me. Lulu still teaches at the UST College of Engineering where she is the Social Science coordinator and at age 62, she is still debating within herself whether to retire now or wait till she turns 65 and that's it. Mila retired some four years ago from the same university where she was language coordinator for as long as she can remember. She now writes and had her first book on Values Education launched recently. Right now, she's in the process of writing a collection of short stories for children. I am myself, 64, but still connected with the academe as a contractual college faculty member teaching Mass Communication subjects.

All of us have grandchildren and since a year ago, we have been meeting regularly to dine and spend our time exchanging ideas and opinions on practically anything under the sun. Sometimes, there is an occasion for dining like Lulu's birthday or Mila's arrival from a recent trip to the United States but mostly, there is no occasion at all, just that we set a date and meet one another and well, eat and talk, talk, talk on pressing issues that concern our society today especially about students since we are academicians.

What we talked about the last time was the way we perceive students now. We can say honestly that our students do not like to read much. There is TV to watch and reading is taxing, they would rationalize. Some of them do not really take their studies seriously, there are many other things they are interested in: the latest cell phone model, the newest fad in fashion, the latest dance craze or things like that and it comes quite disappointing for us who attended college differently, but those were the days when it was practically home-school-and-back routine, and in school after class hours, the library would be a favorite hang-out to find out what the newest bestsellers were.

Today, the malls are there, billiards, many young students take to drinking and smoking, texting, chatting via Internet, playing computer games, joy riding, all for fun. We hope they would give their studies top priority. Of course, this is a very personal opinion and some students might feel offended but then I am still teaching and these I know to be simply the truth.

Our college life was, well, quite boring, at least some students thought so when I had a chance to talk about it in one of my classes. But, I think, it paid off. We know our grammar and literature, could still recite lines from the poetry of Elizabeth Browning and William Shakespeare. We are familiar with Edgar Allan Poe, Sir Walter Raleigh, O. Henry, Christopher Marlowe. I could tell stories to my grandchildren about "The Prince and the Pauper," "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea," "The Three Musketeers," etc. After graduating from college, I read Truman Capote, Oscar Wilde, Ayn Rand, Ernest Hemingway and William Faulker, Gabriel Garcia Marquez and also Lualhati Bautista, F. Sionil Jose, Bienvenido Lumbera, even Ferdie Lopez, Ronald Baytan, Ralph Galan and Wendell Capili just as I like Toni Morrison and a host of young American writers.

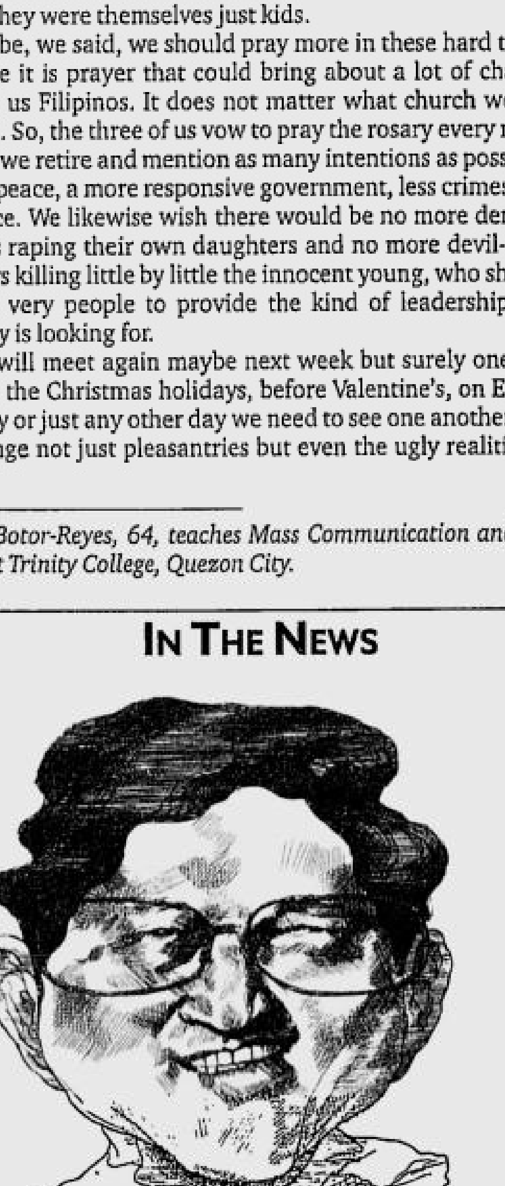
We also remember the good times in school, including, falling in love and not marrying the first guy we fell in love with. We all married our last love who are, fortunately, still our present love. The three of us have two children each, now professionals and settled. Their children are now the subjects of the same love, affection and care we gave them when they were themselves just kids.

Maybe, we said, we should pray more in these hard times because it is prayer that could bring about a lot of change among us Filipinos. It does not matter what church we belong to. So, the three of us vow to pray the rosary every night before we retire and mention as many intentions as possible: world peace, a more responsive government, less crimes and violence. We likewise wish there would be no more demon-fathers raping their own daughters and no more devil-drug pushers killing little by little the innocent young, who should be the very people to provide the kind of leadership our country is looking for.

We will meet again maybe next week but surely one day during the Christmas holidays, before Valentine's, on Easter Sunday or just any other day we need to see one another and exchange not just pleasantries but even the ugly realities of life.

Jokee Botor-Reyes, 64, teaches Mass Communication and English at Trinity College, Quezon City.

IN THE NEWS



Jose Isidro Camacho

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Proud to be Filipino

ON MY way back from a trip to New Jersey with my two sisters, I had a very unfortunate experience. It was the first time we were traveling without our parents. Our plane had engine trouble in Seattle so all the passengers were asked to deplane and were escorted to the Clarion Hotel to rest until our plane was cleared for take-off. We were tense and panicky not knowing what to do since we were not seasoned travelers. Our fears were allayed because the airline agents and passengers were very nice and accommodating.

Most of them were interested to start a conversation with us especially when they learned we were from the Philippines. A Taiwanese man came up to us and wanted to confirm if there were really thousands of islands that comprise the Philippines. I was elated in his interest in our country so I told him that there were actually 7,107 islands in the Philippines.

Another student traveling to Singapore joined in our conversation and asked if President Macapagal-Arroyo was the President of the country.

The Taiwanese was so overwhelmed about how good our President must be to be able to govern 7,107 islands. He knew also of the ongoing crises in our country and he still had a positive perception of the Philippines. It felt good to know that there are still foreigners who still think good about us despite what is happening in our country. But is his view correct? I am not sure because I am an insider and know our political situation. Probably, the Taiwanese thinks our islands are as big as the different states in the United States. The Philippines probably is just as big as the state of New Jersey. He was thinking in terms of numbers and not size.

It is frustrating to think about the state of our country with the kind of leaders we have and it makes me wish it could change with a wink of an eye. We should start by voting for leaders who are honest and have good political will. We should have leaders who will put the welfare of the Filipino first and not be concerned mainly in enriching themselves. We should scrutinize the candidates before we vote for them. It is high time we educate ourselves and vote intelligently and not by popularity or generosity.

Hopefully, the next time I hear a positive comment about the Philippines, I can proudly agree, knowing I am a Filipino.

—MARGARET VALENTINE L. ALIGNO, Business Administration Department, Miriam College, Quezon City

Street for Joe Burgos

THIS refers to your story about the death of press freedom hero, Jose Burgos Jr. (PDI, 11/17/03)

I think it is right and proper that a street in Manila or Quezon City be named "Jose Burgos Jr. Street" as a special honor for his life filled with love of press freedom and of country.

And I hope that we will have more genuine crusading journalists like Burgos so dictatorship will never again rear its ugly head in our country.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO,
2 Goodenia Court,
Voyager Point,
NSW 2171, Australia

Ensure Marcos victims get compensated quickly

WE welcome the Supreme Court's ruling that the $683 million which the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos deposited in Swiss banks is to be released to the government. This piece of information is a respite from all the negative news in all the papers. This gives this country and its people a glimmer of hope.

But this is no reason for complacency. The Supreme Court's ruling may be final, but the process of indemnification is not. This legal victory, which Malacañang referred to as "a step toward closure" is actually a "giant step toward closure."

As long as the ill-gotten wealth is not distributed to its rightful owners, closure is nowhere in sight.

House Bill 4535 and Senate Bill 1877 seek to allocate P10 billion from the recovered funds for the 9,539 documented Marcos dictatorship victims of "summary executions, torture, involuntary disappearances and other gross human rights violations systematically perpetrated by the late President Marcos." All victims of human rights violations during martial law should be indemnified.

Continued monitoring and vigilance should be exercised so as to ensure that the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses would not be used for other purposes, aside from indemnification of martial law victims and land reform. With the 2004 elections just around the corner, the $683 million may still be in danger of being spent "elsewhere."

It took so many years for the ill-gotten wealth to be recovered. We hope it will not take as long for the victims of human rights violations to be compensated.

—AURORA A. PARONG, MD
executive director,
Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, 45 St. Mary St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

Defense protests raps against judge

I WRITE as defense counsel of accused Marlon Ompoc and William Lagundi in reaction to the published letter of Brenda Reyes de Guzman of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, National Capital Region. (PDI, 11/6/03) I have represented Ompoc and Lagundi in almost all of the stages of the proceedings in the criminal case against them before RTC Branch 66, Makati City and I take strong exception to the published accusation against Judge Ricardo Rosario, the trial judge. I believe that the allegations or accusations culled from the report of a Marilyn Miller of Amnesty International is unfounded and rather unfair. It undermines not only the integrity of Rosario in particular, but the integrity of the judiciary in general. It also indirectly accuses us, defense counsels, of not doing our best to protect the interest of our clients.

To set the record straight, Ompoc, Lagundi and their other co-accused are not political detainees. They have been charged of a crime triable by Special Criminal Courts.

We have already presented our last witness out of several defense witnesses and will be formally offering our evidence. At the rate the proceedings took place, I can only say that the court did its best in trying the case with possible dispatch, considering that Rosario is hearing heinous crime cases in his regular sala and in a vacant sala of which he is a pairing judge. Most, if not all, the accused in these cases are detained without bail. Equal time allocation has to be observed among all the accused and therefore if the presentation of evidence required a longer period of time than what would normally happen in a one sala-one judge situation, it is because of the two salas presided by Rosario. I am aware that my co-defense counsel, Miguel Asuncion and the public and private prosecutors share this sentiment.

I find it rather unusual and I am surprised that the name of Rudy Villareal, my clients' co-accused, was included as one of the accused being "harangued" or harassed when Villareal, from the initial stage of the proceedings against him, questioned the jurisdiction of the court and even filed with the Court of Appeals a petition for certiorari to prevent the court from hearing his case which was what actually happened.

At this point in time, we want to impress upon Miller and De Guzman that Asuncion and I have still the highest respect for Rosario's integrity and his sense of impartiality. In fact, we both objected to the idea of Judge Rosario's inhibition on the case when he brought up this matter, and both the public and private prosecutors agreed with us.

—SAMUEL F. BALDADO,
counsel for Marlon Ompoc and William Lagundi, 8000 Blue Cross Center,
Makati Avenue cor.
P. Burgos Street, Makati City

Why don't congressmen also make an accounting?

"AN EYE for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

As Rep. Felix Fuentebella aggressively insisted that every voucher and every cent is accounted for in the Judiciary Development Fund, then I, as a citizen, also insist that Fuentebella and all the members of Congress account for every centavo in their budget, particularly from the controversial Countrywide Development Fund or the so-called "pork barrel."

I would like to see how these people, who are supposed to represent the citizens of their respective districts, made use of the time and money—our time and money—I should point out, because they are "public servants" and not lords of the republic.

I want to see how much traveling locally and abroad they have made, who were in their entourage and who are on their payroll, how many committee meetings and sessions they have attended, how many bills they have filed and shepherded into a law, how much they have spent for sorties and all.

In other words, I want the members of Congress to account for every centavo of the taxpayers' money, particularly those from the Brat Pack and the Brazen Reps—either they answer now or a motion for their impeachment will also be filed.

And I'm pretty sure I will get more than 80 signatures for this petition.

—MICHELLE R. CRUZ,
3979 Airport Road,
1702 Baclaran, Parañaque City

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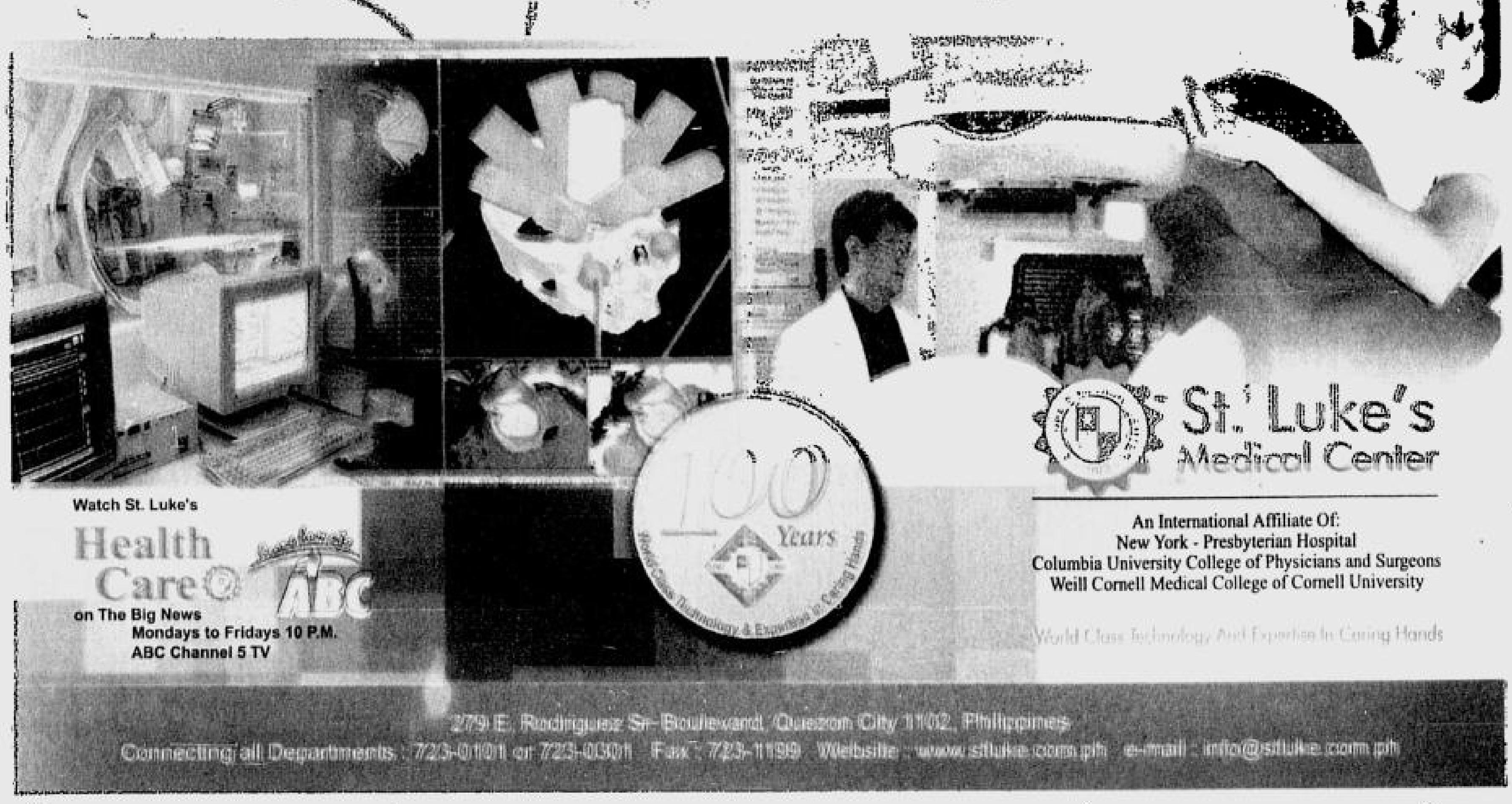
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Maid killed in Saudi blast still unpaid

ILAGAN, Isabela—Relatives of 25-year-old Reylin Nuez Abarra, the lone Filipino fatality in the Nov. 9 bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, have asked the Saudi government to help them facilitate the payment of at least $1,200 or P66,000 in unpaid salaries by her employer.

Abarra's mother Elena, 57, a laundry woman, said Reylin did not receive her salary for six months before her death. Reylin's body arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Friday from Riyadh and was transported to this capital town on Saturday.

Abarra was killed along with 17 others in an explosion that ripped through the Al-Mohayya Compound in Riyadh where she worked as a maid. Two other Filipinos were wounded.

Mrs. Abarra said the Saudi and Philippine governments should help them "because Reylin lost her life while serving her duties as a domestic helper."

She said Reylin had many dreams for them but her biggest was to build a house for the family.

"Her dreams for us were shattered by her death. Losing someone who had been helping the family is inconsolable," she said.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Armed men raid radio station

MATI, Davao Oriental—Heavily armed men stormed the Radyo Natin station in nearby Lupon town late Monday and beat up a staffer after he declined to reveal the whereabouts of his boss and another staffer known for his hard-hitting comments.

Jun Castro told police the suspects, who were wearing bonnets, were all armed with M-16 rifles.

"(They) were looking for Bote and Lim. They told me they will kill (Bote) (and Lim) because of their hard-hitting programs in the radio," a trembling Castro told investigators.

He said as soon as the suspects arrived at the station, they aimed their guns at him while asking about Bote and Lim.

Castro said even as he already denied knowing the mediamen's whereabouts, the suspects insisted that he guide them.

Castro, who was alone at the time, said the suspects took turns in beating him up using the butt of their firearms, when he refused to help them locate the mediamen.

He said he was begging the suspects to stop to no avail.

"I begged them to spare me and told them I have a family to feed," Castro said.

In a later interview with the INQUIRER, Bote, who was recently elected provincial chair of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), and Lim said luck was on their side that day.

Shortly before the attack, they were at the radio station, which is near the Lupon town police office.

The two said because it was already getting late, they decided to go home.

The attack came at exactly 10 p.m., according to Castro's account.

Bote and Lim said they could be dead by now had the armed men found them inside the station.

A few days before the attack, Lim confided to the INQUIRER that he has been receiving threats.

He believes some politicians could be behind the threats.

"Definitely there is politics in there. Obviously, many politicians were irked by our hard-hitting radio programs," Lim said.

But Lim would not name any politician he suspects of being behind the threats.

Senior Supt. Catalino Cuy, Davao Oriental police chief, said police were investigating the raid.

Cuy said he still could not comment whether the raid was political.

The attack on the Radyo Natin in Lupon was the second involving the Manila Broadcasting Corp., the station's owner.

Early this year, armed men torched the Radyo Natin .in Baganga town.

The station was also airing programs critical of some politicians.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cavite cops lauded for busting Kuratong group

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Crime fighting does pay.

As incidents of bank robbery in the country continue to mount, nine members of the Cavite police who courageously gave chase to a notorious group of bank robbers and arrested four of its members in Dasmariñas, Cavite two weeks ago were feted in a ceremony held at this camp on Monday.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal said the awardees, led by Cavite police director Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales and Dasmariñas. police chief Supt. Rodel Sermonia, were all deserving of the Medalya ng Kagitingan (Medal of Heroism) as recognition of their bravery.

"They are the models of how our police lay their lives on the line to serve the public interests. They are worthy of emulation from other police officials," Caringal noted.

He said the group was instrumental in the capture of four members of the dreaded Kuratong Baleleng Gang who ransacked an automated teller machine of the Development Bank of the Philippines last Nov. 10 after fatally shooting its security guard.

A police unit stationed near the ATM branch heard the gunshots and immediately went to the area.

Although out-powered by the suspects' high-caliber firearms, the police shot it out with the fleeing suspects.

Two other civilians were wounded in the shootout. Rosales, who had also received a citation from the House of Representatives for successfully leading several drug raids in Cavite, Quezon and Parañaque, personally led the dragnet operation to collar the suspects.

Caringal added that the successful pursuit operation against the suspect led to the "partial disabling" of the operation of the group that victimizes banks and ATM machines in the region and Metro Manila.

"I think this is a strong message to syndicates and to businessmen as well that we are not taking the problem on bank robbery sitting down," Caringal told the INQUIRER.

Other awardees include SPO4 Juan Galera, SPO3 Remy Dadiz, SPO2 Rolando Noche, SPO1 Joven Mojares, PO3 Cornelio Lyndon Bugayong, PO1 Dennis Alarcon and PO1 Erwin Bawag.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dad found loser in 2001 polls

DUMAGUETE CITY—The winner of the 10th slot of the city council of Tanjay City, Negros Oriental during the 2001 elections was not the one who has occupied the post for more than two years now.

The Supreme Court, in a decision handed barely six months before the end of the term of elective local officials, declared that Dr. Rolando Tabaloc was the real winner against businessman Felix Barot.

In July, the High Tribunal in its resolution of the case declared Tabaloc to be the winner. But Barot filed a motion for reconsideration of the decision. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Encroachment on Mt. Apo alarms UN volunteer

DAVAO CITY—Home to 800 plant and animal species, numerous hot springs and waterfalls, cool weather and a breathtaking view, Mt. Apo remains a favorite site for the rich and the famous—most of them politicians—for the construction of vacation houses.

John Largo, a United Nations volunteer and founder of the Human Development International (HDI), said squatting at the Mt. Apo natural park, mostly by politicians, has been steadily increasing particularly in the Davao del Sur side of the mountain.

He said the encroachment is reaching the mountain peak.

The structure nearest the peak has already reached Barangay Tudaya, the area nearest the mountain peak.

Mt. Apo stands 2,938 meters above sea level, the country's highest mountain, and is also home to about 272 bird species.

It straddles 39 barangays in at least five municipalities and two cities in Southern Mindanao and Central Mindanao.

Largo, who visited Mt. Apo from Nov. 13-17 for an evaluation climb, said he would present the problem to the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and concerned agencies.

Largo said the encroachment was tantamount to squatting because the government has not issued land titles on Mt. Apo, a protected area. *Anthony Allada with reports from Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Person with AIDS defies pain, death

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

HIS headaches become severe each day, and he knows it's only a matter of time before he finally dies of complications from a modern-day scourge—AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

But finding solace and strength in his newfound Christian faith, he continues to defy the pain, making Christmas decors not only for his daily medicines but also for his family's rice and fish.

"My head is in severe pain," 38-year-old Tony (not his real name) said. "But the prayers and the support of friends, doctors, nurses and the UCCP (United Church of Christ in the Philippines) keep me going before I finally die."

Tony, who became a member of the UCCP early this year, is confirmed to be in the advanced stage of AIDS. He said his doctors had proclaimed in September last year that he had only a few months, perhaps a year, to live.

The diagnosis, he says, has "added more pain to my already painful experience of being gang-raped" (by homosexual men) while working in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 1993.

That incident, he says, caused his AIDS, forcing him to leave a high-paying job as a designer-decorator. At that time, he was earning $1,200 a month.

Forced to return to the Philippines, Tony took on odd jobs to help pay for medications for on-and-off infections, such as skin rashes, mouth sores, fever and pneumonia. At first, he thought they were just ordinary ailments.

But after he got bedridden and doctors confirmed he was positive of AIDS, Tony said he almost gave up. "I thought that (the time he was bedridden) was the end of my life," he recalls. "But I didn't surrender."

Gifted artist

If he could endure the pain, Tony, a gifted artist from Manila, would come to Baguio from time to time to trade and get orders for his Christmas decors, a craft which he began doing in September this year.

The fourth in a family of seven, Tony, a bachelor, has to pay for costly daily medicines and help support his aging parents and younger siblings. His medicines alone cost P45,000 to P60,000 a month.

He tried soliciting and was able to get financial help from some politicians. But he said he also had to earn and should not totally rely on contributions and donations "while I can employ my creative talents."

In a recent forum on AIDS that the UCCP-Baguio sponsored, Tony shared what kept him going despite the severe pain.

"I know my days are numbered on this planet," he said. "For several months now, I have struggled with death, but I have found comfort and solace in the Lord, knowing full well that when I die I am in His loving embrace."

Through his public testimonies, Tony does not only give a face to a dreaded disease, whose survivors many people still avoid like the plague. Tony has also shown that people with AIDS like him need love and support and could be embraced, as pastors and speakers did to him during the recent forum here where he spoke.

"While they are still able, people with AIDS should not face discrimination," said UCCP health volunteer Michael Palaruan.

"In fact, AIDS sufferers should have the same right to be employed as anyone else, so society could benefit from their talents, skills and expertise."

Tony is one of 125 people in the country living with AIDS, according to the health department. From January 1984 to August this year, the health department recorded 1,921 people with AIDS nationwide.

But the figure could run to 6,000 to 10,000, admitted Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit in September. In Baguio alone, the city health department has monitored 10 people with AIDS from 1992 to 2002.

Surveillance systems

The first in the country to institutionalize HIV surveillance systems, the Baguio City health department continues to regularly monitor "high-risk" sectors, such as commercial sex workers and waiters of night establishments, says Dr. Celia Flor Cascolan-Brillantes, chief of the BHD's social hygiene clinic.

She admits, however, that the stigma attached to AIDS and the fear of discrimination still bar some people from seeking treatment for AIDS or from acknowledging their HIV status publicly.

Brilliantes thus stressed on public awareness on HIV and AIDS as she reechoed the United Nations' two-year World AIDS campaign that seeks to encourage leaders at all levels, and all walks of life, to challenge and act upon all forms of HIV-related discrimination.

"People with HIV or those suspected of being HIV-positive are often turned away from health-care services, denied housing and employment, shunned by their friends and colleagues, divorced by their spouses, assaulted and abused, denied insurance coverage or refused entry into foreign countries," noted the World Health Organization.

The good news is that more and more sectors are getting involved in the AIDS campaign.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, who, during his time, healed lepers, the blind, and other sick and disabled people, the UCCP, for example, early this year has embarked on a ministry to help support people with AIDS and help eliminate the stigma and discrimination attached to the disease.

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'Let's make pinakbet great again'

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

THE LATE President Ferdinand Marcos' favorite political message is "Let's make this nation great again." His daughter, who has been going around the country testing the waters for a senatorial bid, is giving away stickers spoofing her father.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos' "Let's make *pinakbet* great again!" has her caricature cooking the favorite Ilocano dish and another message: "*Patgen ti nateng, kabsat* (Trust your vegetables, sibling)."

Marcos admitted that she was spoofing her father but added that the *pinakbet* renaissance was needed to solve the country's economic woes.

"Ordinary families are already hard-pressed to put food on the table. A bountiful *noche buena* and *media noche* are now found only in the glossy pages of magazines that wrap the reality of *tuyo* (dried fish) and *tinapa* (smoked fish)," Marcos said.

Marcos, who visited Baguio City on Monday, said patronizing *pinakbet* could help the local vegetable industry, already beset by the importation of vegetables from Taiwan, China and Australia.

Pinakbet is an Ilocano vegetable stew combining eggplant, bitter gourd or ampalaya, okra, string beans, tomatoes, ginger, onion, *bagoong* (fish paste) and sometimes sweet potato, lima beans and *bagnet* or deep-fried pork. Full-blooded Ilocanos would not dare add squash like Kapampangans do.

"The secret to a great *pinakbet* are real vegetables from the North," Marcos said. She recommended the small egg-shaped eggplants and small bitter gourd known in Ilocos as *butik*.

"These *butiks* are expensive and high-class in Manila but are very cheap in the North. And of course, the *bagnet* from Batac (her father's hometown in Ilocos Norte) are the best," she said.

She forgot to mention the *bagoong* of Pangasinan, the onions of Nueva Ecija, and the *bagnet* also of Vigan City in Ilocos Sur.

There is also the popular notion in the Ilocos that *pinakbet* makes you young. But other than the passion for *pinakbet*, Marcos admitted a "world of difference" between her and her father.

"I'm very proud of him and carry his legacy with me everyday, but there is a huge difference between me and my father," she said. "My dad was born to be President. I have much a more modest ambition."

She said she was preparing to retire after serving as the representative of the second district of Ilocos Norte, but surveys that included her as a possible senatorial candidate egged her to try for a higher office.

She has since gone to where the nomadic Ilocanos have gone, including Kabacan town in North Cotabato, which is dominated by migrant Ilocanos.

Ilocanos in Hawaii will be the next frontier with the absentee voting being set in place. A very popular Hawaiian band, Don Tiki, recently included a piece called "Pinakbet" in its latest album, "Skinny Dip with Don Tiki."

Marcos said the leading presidential aspirants were busy "digging up" their Ilocano connections.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's mother came from Binalonan, Pangasinan, an Ilocano-part of the vote-rich province. Fernando Poe Jr.'s father was from San Carlos City, another Ilocano bailiwick.

Tanker catches fire; 1 crewman missing

LEGAZPI CITY—A tanker loaded with 1,450 metric tons of coconut oil caught fire at about 4 a.m. yesterday and sank one and one-half hours later in the sea some two nautical miles east of Lagoy Port, Barcelona, Sorsogon.

Philippine Coast Guard Bicol deputy commander Capt. Avelino Fortuna and Office of Civil Defense Bicol director Arnel Capili said the MV Isabela Angelica had 13 crew members on board—including its captain, Rodolfo Lopez.

Twelve of the crewmen had been rescued and only a certain Roberto Gonzales remained missing.

Those rescued were Lopez, Marlon Galimba, Allen Sirvano, Jaime Benares, Richard Fabregas, Jesus Esmeralda, Herman Salvador, Nepomuceno Lagas, Ombito de la Cruz, Pablito Pactolerin, Ronnie Metal and Sonny Depositario.

They were spotted by MV Melvin Jones and MV King Frederick at Matnog, Sorsogon.

A coast guard official said there were only 13 persons aboard the vessel not 15 as stated in the crew list. Two other crewmen transferred to another vessel in Legazpi. *Gil F. Arevalo and Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DIABETES CORNER

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Chosen questions will be featured in subsequent issues.

Reminder: **Do not discontinue your anti-diabetes medicine.** Consult your physician.

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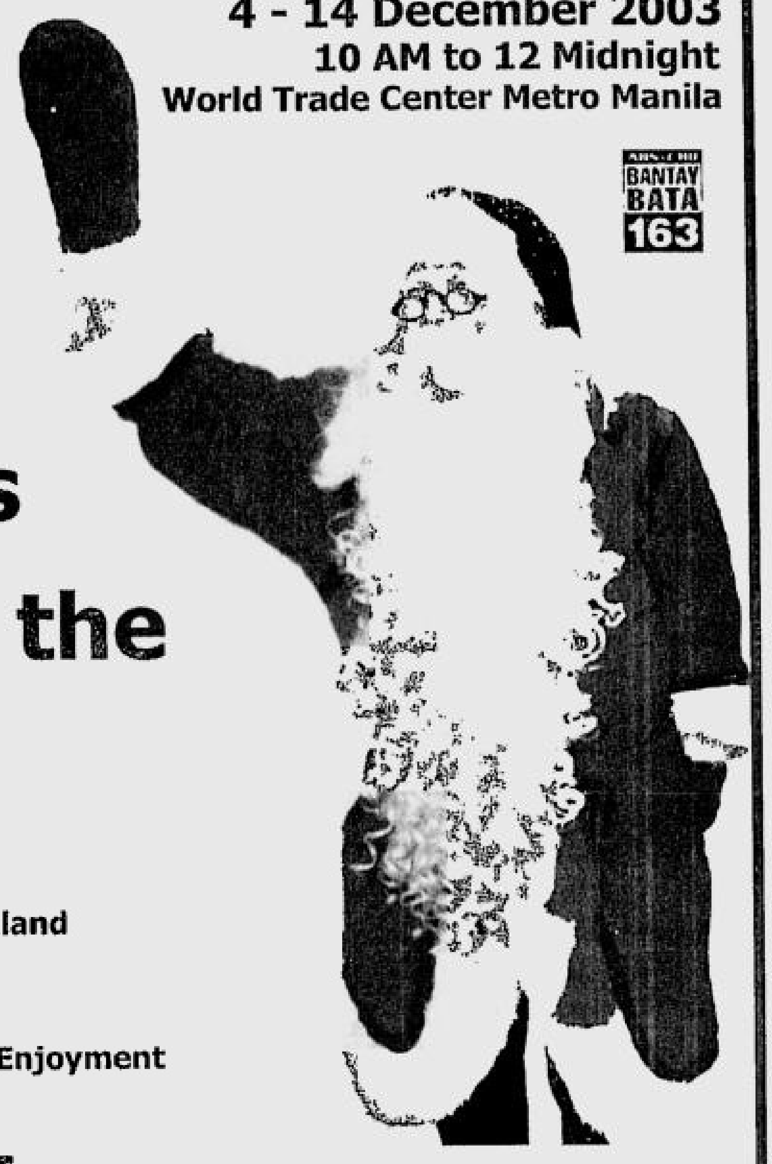

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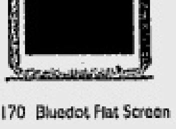
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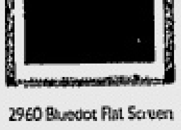
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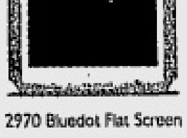
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2011 Classic

Look who's talking

From page A1

every photo opportunity with foreign and local celebrities, yesterday said she did not want the election fever to infect the country with the polls still six months away.

"We are trying to stave off the election frenzy while upholding a platform of reform and reconciliation," she said in a statement. "Excessive partisan politics is a root cause of poverty because it draws our attention and energies away from development and social reform and deepens the divisions in our society."

She also said the country should have "unity in the midst of the heated partisan contention" and be "one nation in the midst of many parties and persuasions."

But in the same statement, the President called on the people to "make wise decisions and choices based on genuine patriotism and concern for the common welfare."

Typical day

Yesterday was typical of how the President had been spending her days since she announced that she was changing her mind and making a sacrifice by standing for election in 2004.

She flew to Dumaguete City at 10 a.m. and stayed there until 4 p.m., inaugurating a drug center and a bridge and parrying questions from reporters. Then she flew back to Manila to catch the movie premiere of the big-budget bio-film of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson at the country's busiest shopping mall.

Press Secretary Milton Alingod did not respond to the INQUIRER query on the reason for Ms Macapagal's presence in a movie premiere.

From wake to concert

The President's critics and political rivals have described her trips to the provinces and photo ops with such personalities as Taiwanese actor Jerry Yan as virtual campaign rallies meant to ensure her visibility to voters.

In one night alone last weekend, she was seen at the wake for the son of former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and at the concert of American singer-actress Mandy Moore.

Raul Roco, her former education secretary and himself an aspirant to the presidency, had even called on her to step down from office during the campaign period.

Expectedly, administration officials shot down the proposal.

Not working

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, yet another presidential hopeful, yesterday accused Ms Macapagal of early campaigning, among others things.

At a gathering of retired military officials and reservists at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, Lacson said in Filipino: "She is attending all the wakes. She even attended the Mandy Moore concert."

He said Ms Macapagal was outside Malacañang every day and not working.

The opposition senator also said the President and her family appeared to be oblivious to the dire things happening in the country.

He likened the situation to that of Nero fiddling while Rome burned.

While RP burning

"While the Philippines is burning, Jose Pidal is busy making money while Mikey, son of Jose, is busy purchasing race horses," he said in Filipino.

It was a reference to the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo supposedly also known as Jose Pidal, and their elder son Mikey, vice governor of Pampanga.

"The administration is in disarray. The businessmen are losing hope," Lacson said. "In the meantime, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Pidal earn their money as if there is no tomorrow."

According to Lacson in a series of earlier privilege speeches, Jose Pidal owns bank accounts where campaign donations to Ms Macapagal were laundered.

'3 Cs'

Lacson said the challenge for the next president was to address "the three Cs—crime, corruption and centralized government—of our malaise as a people, as a nation."

This is the way to "set the government right," he said.

At the gathering, a resolution was presented to Lacson by the Soldiers for Peace and Progress supporting the his "advocacies," including his campaign against corruption.

Supreme Court suspends Erap lawyer

From page A1

warned Attorney Paguia, on pain of disciplinary sanction, to become mindful of his grave responsibilities as a lawyer and as an officer of the court. Apparently, he has chosen not to heed at all. Wherefore [he] is hereby indefinitely suspended from the practice of law, effective upon his receipt hereof, for conduct unbecoming a lawyer and an officer of the court.

"The Supreme Court does not claim infallibility; it will not denounce criticism made by anyone against the Court for, if well-founded, can truly have constructive effects in [its] task, but it will not countenance any wrongdoing nor allow the erosion of our people's faith in the judicial system, let alone by those who have been privileged by it to practice law in the Philippines."

15 days to appeal

Paguia has 15 days to appeal the ruling, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said in an interview. He said that in other such cases, the high court evaluated the suspension of lawyers after "two to three years," when they saw the error of their ways.

Davide also said that for the tribunal to lift the suspension, Paguia had to "justify" why he should be allowed to practice law again.

Paguia had not stopped questioning the tribunal's ruling upholding Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ascension to the presidency after the January 2001 revolt that toppled Estrada.

He had also accused the justices of "partisan politics," citing their presence at the Edsa Shrine to witness Davide swearing in Ms Macapagal as President.

Statutory context

But according to the Supreme Court, "partisan political activities," in the statutory context, refer to acts "designed to cause the success or the defeat of a particular candidate or candidates who have filed certificates of candidacy to a public office in an election."

It said the oath-taking of a President before the Chief Justice was a "traditional official function" of the latter.

"The assailed presence of other justices ... at such an event could be no different from their appearance in such other official functions as attending the annual State of the Nation Address by the President ... before the legislative department," it added.

Warnings

The tribunal said it had repeatedly warned Paguia, first on July 8 and then on Sept. 23, to desist from making a mockery of the court.

It said that in its Sept. 23 resolution, it told Paguia to explain why he should not be sanctioned for conduct unbecoming a lawyer. But in a three-page response, Paguia, "in an obstinate display of defiance, repeated his earlier claim of political partisanship," it said.

The tribunal also said Paguia continued his attacks in the media despite its having pointed out to him that lawyers were prohibited from "making such statements on a case that may tend to arouse public opinion for or against a party."

"Regrettably, Attorney Paguia has persisted in ignoring the Court's well-meant admonition," it said.

Not absolute

Lawyer Gleo Guerra, senior chief staff officer of the Supreme Court's Public Information Office, said that the ruling was not a curtailment of free speech, that freedom of expression was "not absolute," and that respect should be accorded the judiciary.

"Paguia attacked the Supreme Court on a decision that has become final and executory," she said, referring to the ruling on the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

Guerra pointed out that Paguia could still appeal the suspension, and the tribunal could lift it if he showed that he had "reformed" and that he would not repeat his errors.

"The Court is not cold-hearted," Guerra said.

She said other lawyers previously suspended by the tribunal included Iloilo Rep. Raul Gonzalez, a former Tanodbayan who questioned the Judiciary Development Fund during the Marcos years, and lawyer Joaquin Borromeo, who was suspended for filing too many petitions.

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Foes to GMA: Don't pin kidnaps on us

From page A1

ransom spree as another destabilization plot.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon also assailed the government for blaming everyone else except itself.

"The government should not blame the opposition and use the destabilization plot as an excuse for not doing its job (of curbing crime)," Biazon said in Filipino.

Police checkpoints

Undeterred by criticism, Ms Macapagal yesterday ordered the setting up of police checkpoints in "strategic areas" in Metro Manila and urban centers across the country.

The President said vehicles with tinted windows and public utility vehicles with passengers in police or military uniform would be inspected at the checkpoints. The reason, she explained, is that some criminals try to cover their crime by wearing police or military uniforms.

Ms Macapagal said Interior Secretary Jose Lina and anti-kidnapping czar Angelo Reyes were drawing up the comprehensive measures against bank robbery and kidnapping.

She said she expected Lina to immediately coordinate the setting up of the checkpoints.

Asked about the possibility that the nationwide scope of the checkpoints could be misconstrued as a prelude to martial law, Ms Macapagal replied: "Well, we have to enforce the laws."

Ultimatum

The President also issued an ultimatum to police station commanders and district directors to prevent heinous crimes in their respective areas of jurisdiction or face the ax.

"I am directing the PNP chief to reinforce the three-strike policy wherein station commanders and even district directors in Metro Manila would be sacked from their posts, if three incidents of heinous crimes, especially kidnappings and bank robbery, occur in close succession within their areas of operational responsibility," Ms Macapagal said.

The President warned the Philippine National Police hierarchy that she would strictly enforce command responsibility "and I will not accept flimsy excuses."

She said command responsibility meant that the immediate commander of the police officer guilty of negligence would be sacked.

No evidence

But while the President may be convinced that the recent kidnapping spree was meant to destabilize her administration, her top lieutenants at the Philippine National Police were not yet ready to back her bold allegation.

"We still have no hard evidence," said Director Ricardo de Leon, PNP spokesperson. "We're still investigating."

Even the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the primary PNP unit tasked to look into sensitive cases such as destabilization efforts, yesterday said it was yet to gather substantial evidence to link kidnap-for-ransom syndicates to personalities who might be out to discredit the President.

Turnaround

But it was De Leon who said, only the other day, that the violent manner surrounding the abduction of the last three victims was unusual and may be politically motivated.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Civil Security Group director, yesterday said he was convinced of the destabilization angle although his unit, like the CIDG headed by Director Eduardo Matillano, was still gathering evidence.

Their suspicion that the kidnappings could have been meant to destabilize the government was based largely on the fact that the gangs digressed from what one official called their "traditional modus operandi."

Bank robbers, too

Police said the destabilization theory was boosted by the fact that even bank robbers might have jumped into the confusion. On Monday, suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang stormed the Union Bank branch in Don Galo, Parañaque, and reportedly took P300,000.

The PNP is now gathering evidence that could establish links between the kidnap gangs and the robbery syndicates.

"It's not that easy to link these suspects to any destabilization plot but we'll find if there is indeed any once we have arrested them," said a ranking PNP official involved in anti-kidnapping operations.

Senior Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque city police chief, yesterday said he and his men were close to arresting the remaining members of the Waray gang that kidnapped and killed Coca-Cola executive Betti Chua Sy.

Admission of weakness

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said the government should stop using politicians as an excuse for its inability to stop kidnappings during election seasons.

"Regardless of the politicians involved, if there are, it is the duty of the government to prevent criminality," Moreno said.

"Saying that these criminal elements are being used by politicians or forces out to destabilize the government is an admission of weakness on the part of the administration," the administration lawmaker said.

Moreno said there was no excuse for good performance and effective implementation of the laws against criminality.

Out of five

He described the government's charge that certain politicians were behind the kidnappings to fund their campaigns as "way out of line."

"The government should name names rather than play on insinuations. Resorting to such only demonstrates our helplessness," he said.

Moreno likewise said that whatever the reason of kidnappers for engaging in this criminal activity was immaterial.

He said it was the credibility of the Macapagal administration that was on the line. "I want this administration to succeed," he stressed.

Historical basis

According to Undersecretary Agnes Devanadera of the Department of Interior and Local Government, however, Malacañang's declaration has historical basis.

"Whenever (an) election is near, history shows that it is normal to have a rising index of crime incidents like the rash of kidnappings, bank robberies etc.," she told the INQUIRER.

Devanadera said there could really be politicians behind the criminal groups. *With reports from Christian Esguerra and Cynthia Balana*

Business wants Neri

From page A1

lead to a bigger budget deficit.

Already Asia's weakest currency of the year, the peso fell to its lowest level in nearly three years on Monday following news that Camacho would resign. It closed yesterday at 55.53, a slight improvement from P55.56 the previous day.

"There is no question that the peso would remain volatile for the meantime," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters. "But once a permanent replacement is named or at least once (Finance Undersecretary Juanita) Amatong accepted it, then things would settle down."

Amatong will serve as officer in charge of the finance department starting Dec. 1.

Political savvy

One of the signatories to the letter, who asked not to be named, said that the Department of Finance needed someone who has technical competence and politically savvy to ensure that the government stick to its budget deficit target and get Congress' nod to back up the government's revenue-enhancing bills.

Neri was a longtime chief of the Congressional Planning and Budget Office before he was tapped by the President to replace Dante Canlas last year as director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The businessmen believe that Neri's experience in Congress was needed to convince lawmakers to pass a number of urgent bills, such as the indexation of sin taxes to boost revenues and trim down the budget shortfall.

One of the reasons for Camacho's sudden resignation was his frustration with Congress, which has rebuffed him every time he asked for its support for bills seeking to increase taxes.

The failure to initiate reforms due to Congress' feud with Camacho has led investors to doubt the government's ability to maintain fiscal discipline especially in an election year in which the incumbent President is running.

The President allayed fears of investors that massive election spending next year would push the budget deficit beyond prudent limits.

At a press briefing in Dumaguete, Ms Macapagal said: "I would like to correct that headline (INQUIRER) that said that businessmen fear a widening deficit. Right now, (Budget Secretary) Emy Boncodin said we are P8 billion below the ceiling of the deficit."

The INQUIRER reported Tuesday a research note by American investment bank giant JP Morgan, which said: "Camacho's resignation must be seen in the context of the run-up to the May 2004 presidential election. Camacho's resignation heightens suspicions that the deficit may widen in early 2004."

Ms Macapagal said that it was she and not Camacho who sets government economic policies and that his departure should not lead to any changes in fiscal discipline.

"The head of the economic team is no less than the President. The policies that he (Camacho) has been carrying out are my policies, including those on fiscal program and containing the budget deficit," Ms Macapagal said.

She explained that Camacho resigned largely because of financial reasons. "I can understand Camacho's financial predicament. From a guy who was earning P5 million a month to only P50,000 a month in government. His second daughter is entering Harvard, and he has a one-year prohibition before he can go back to a job that will give him the same income that he was earning before," the President said.

She said this was the reason Camacho had wanted to leave office since the start of the year.

Meeting with the business community, the administration's economic team said the government would not overshoot its budget deficit target of P202 billion for this year and P197.8 billion for 2004.

Not for election

"I assure you that the budget is not going to be used for election purposes because our resolve to keep the budget deficit in check is as strong as ever. The resignation of one Cabinet official does not change that," said Boncodin, who promised to finish her term until June 2004.

JP Morgan expects the budget deficit to hit P220 billion this year, up from the Department of Finance's forecast of P202 billion.

Boncodin said that there would definitely be election spending but that would come from the private sector. During election period, she said government spending would even taper off due to the election-related ban on hiring and contracting.

Pitch for GMA

"I believe the fears that our budget deficit will widen is baseless. We have established a program of fiscal responsibility and my departure will not change that. It has been cast in stone," said Camacho, who along with Boncodin met with the business community.

Camacho made a pitch for Ms Macapagal, saying that given the uncertainties caused by the election period, it would be important to vote for the candidate who will continue the fiscal reforms.

"She (Ms Macapagal) represents continuity and she is very qualified," said the outgoing finance secretary, who insisted that he is not a politician and refused to be used as a "political tool."

Political noises

Camacho said political noises were undermining the efforts of the economic team to achieve a higher growth and to keep prices and the exchange rate stable.

"The whole political noise is drowning economic development," Camacho said.

He and Boncodin vouched for the capability and competence of Amatong, who has refused to be appointed as acting finance secretary. Camacho hoped that she would be convinced by Malacañang to eventually accept the title.

As an OIC, Amatong will have less powers because she cannot sign contracts unless given the authority by Malacañang.

"Amatong is very qualified. She knows the ropes at the DOF more than I do at the DBM. She knows that she has my full support," Boncodin said. *With a report from Reuters*

JDV pushes 7-point peace and order plan

From page A1

penalty law, he said: "We need to (do) a review of the law on the death penalty, but limited only to ... kidnappings. Let it be the decision of this conference. We approved this law in Congress. If it has to be amended, let it come as a pressure of public opinion. I am waiting for this summit meeting. I want to see the collective opinion (of the national leaders). I would like the President to call this meeting, and let's discuss it frankly. Let us not be governed by political considerations, let's do what is right."

Speaker's points

Besides the convening of the summit, the other points in De Venecia's action plan included:

- Addressing the Moro separatist movement in Mindanao by forging a peace accord between the government and MILF leaders.
- Implementing an economic action plan for Mindanao that will be supported by Americans.
- Forging a peace accord with the National Democractic Front and its armed wing, the New People's Army.
- Launching a determined campaign against kidnappings. "We need 10 major success stories in kidnapping for the next 60 days in order to break the back of the kidnapping syndicates in Metro Manila," said De Venecia.
- Providing a bigger budget for the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces' intelligence operations "so that they can infiltrate the kidnap syndicates and have more information against them." He said the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force should also be given "all the funds it needs."
- Introduce new provisions in the national budget to enable the PNP, AFP and the National Bureau of Investigation to give larger cash rewards.

"I think with these solid steps, we should be able to improve the situation," said De Venecia, eliciting applause from the members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Transient solution

In her statement, Ms Macapagal hewed closely to the anti-death penalty position of the Catholic Church.

"Executions may give us some form of emotional release and a transient sense of retribution and security but the more effective solutions lie in fielding the entire criminal justice system against criminals, so that we can effectively curb kidnapping, robbery, murder or rape," she said.

The President said she would rather have a "strong institutional approach rather than play to the gallery and the media on this issue."

Academic

In a press briefing in Dumaguete City yesterday, the President pointed out that there was no use asking her to lift the moratorium for convicted kidnappers because there was no one in line for immediate execution.

"It's academic because the law on the death penalty provides for a very long period before the judgment of the Supreme Court goes to the President," she said.

"And right now it's about a year or even more and right now there is no death penalty confirmed by the Supreme Court in the pipeline for kidnapping so it is an academic question," she said.

But while the President had seemingly closed the door to the death penalty, her spokesperson Secretary Ignacio Bunye maintained that Ms Macapagal continued to keep an open mind.

"So it is clear that the President will continue with the process of consultation with Congress, the members of the Church and other sectors because capital punishment has long been a divisive issue," Bunye said in an RMN radio interview.

Body count

In Congress, several representatives stepped up calls for the resumption of the execution of criminals convicted for heinous crimes, such as kidnapping for ransom, murder and drug trafficking.

Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) said the President had to "bite the bullet and order the only way to stop kidnapping and other heinous crimes which is to send their perpetrators to death."

"The mounting body count in the violence waged by the lawless calls not for extraordinary measures but ... the simple implementation of the law," Zubiri said, referring to Republic Act No. 7659 or the Death Penalty Law.

Self-defense

Zubiri said that implementing the law was an "exercise of self-defense."

"If we are soft on criminals, they will be hard on their victims," Zubiri said. "The law says a person who commits a heinous crime shall pay it with his life."

Rep. Harry Angping (NPC, Manila) filed Resolution No. 1401 calling on the President to lift the moratorium.

Angping said: "Some crimes, particularly those perpetrated against the weak and the defenseless in society for monetary gain, demand a sentence of death despite moral and religious arguments."

Ex-Sen. Ernesto Herrera, author of the death penalty law, warned that Ms Macapagal's refusal to send convicts found guilty of serious crimes to death might lead to vigilantism and extrajudicial executions.

Outcry of disgust

But in a press briefing, Rep. Oscar Moreno (Lakas, Misamis Oriental) said the call for the lifting of the moratorium was an "outcry of disgust and frustration" over government's inability to effectively address the resurgence of criminality.

New Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales urged the President to hold firm. *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Cynthia Balana; AFP*

Filipino Muslims end fasting, join world Eid'l Fitr bash

From page A1

ner in Malacañang for selected Muslim local officials.

Stray bullets

Yesterday's revelry, which traditionally included exploding firecrackers, was again marred by gunfire that left a number of casualties.

Police reported the death of Annie Tapayan, 35, who was shot and wounded in Datu Mastura, a newly created town of Maguindanao, by an unidentified man.

Three other people were reportedly injured, including Anisa Angil, 13, who was hit by a stray bullet in the left arm while sleeping in a house on Shariff Kabunsuan Street in Cotabato City.

An elderly man accidentally shattered his fingers after firing a 9-mm automatic.

Another 12-year-old boy, identified as Datu Khuz Mama, screamed in pain after a bullet fired from a .45 cal. pistol hit him in the back while he was having dinner with other family members inside their house.

Expressions of joy

The indiscriminate firing of guns was an open expression of joy by Filipino Muslims as they celebrated the end of the monthlong sacrifice, said Muslim cleric Sheik Guiapar Ali.

Ali noted that the number of people who fired their guns this year was lower than those in previous celebrations.

Earlier, police officials had warned those possessing guns to refrain from firing during the Eid'l Fitr so as not to inflict injuries or harm on other people.

Elsewhere ...

The holiday began Monday night in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation, when residents broke their fast for the last time.

Lightning flashed and heavy rain fell in Jakarta but these did not deter revelers from their tradition of climbing aboard trucks, minibuses and motorcycles for a raucous parade through city streets.

Youngsters banged drums and let off fireworks as the words "God is great" floated across the city in prayer from city mosques all night.

Jakarta

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri welcomed the holiday on Monday night by opening a new Islamic center on the site of a large former brothel complex in Jakarta.

On Tuesday morning, she joined thousands of her countrymen for prayers at Jakarta's Istiqlal mosque, Southeast Asia's largest. The men wore traditional sarongs and women prayed in white robes.

The chaotic capital was noticeably quiet and free of traffic Tuesday after many residents squeezed onto buses, trains and ferries to feast and exchange gifts in their home villages.

Bangladesh

A similar exodus was under way in Bangladesh as millions fled Dhaka. Authorities said they had strictly enforced controls on overloading ferries, a major form of transport, in the hopes of avoiding a repeat of deadly tragedies.

A day early

Southeast Asian Muslims began celebrating at least a day earlier than most of their fellow Muslims in South Asia, where authorities were still waiting for the sighting of the new moon to mark the holiday.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in his Eid'l Fitr address late Monday, told multiracial Malaysia to cherish its ethnic diversity as Muslims celebrated.

The country has deployed more than 3,000 security personnel to prevent new attacks by pirates and smuggling during the festivities, said Gen. Mohamad Zahidi Zainuddin, chief of the Malaysian defense force.

In much of Pakistan, Tuesday was for last-minute shopping ahead of the celebrations.

Women and girls have been rushing to beauty parlors to get henna paste on their palms and arms and to purchase glass bangles for the holiday.

"It is certainly a most auspicious occasion for every Muslim in the world and we like to celebrate it in our own traditional way," said Shazia Razzaq, 24, a schoolteacher getting her hands adorned with henna.

While she was still preparing for the holiday, Muslims in Pakistan's conservative North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan were already celebrating the Eid'l Fitr on Tuesday as clerics there declared that the new moon had been sighted.

Indian Kashmir

War-weary Muslims in Indian Kashmir, where a long-running anti-Indian insurgency continues, put aside their fears of violence to flock to markets, pastry shops and beauty parlors Tuesday ahead of the festivities.

People were busy stocking up on food for special meals and buying new clothes and footwear in the summer capital Srinagar's main commercial hub.

"People are spending like anything," said Shabir Ahmed, who owns a ready-made garment shop. "We are doing brisk business."

Aceh province

In Indonesia's Aceh province, where the military is in the seventh month of an all-out offensive against separatist rebels, more than 7,000 displaced people said Eid prayers in refugee camps, state media reported.

Australian Muslims were also celebrating.

New South Wales Premier Bob Carr told worshippers at Sydney's most prominent mosque that dialogue was the key to averting a clash of civilizations between the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds.

"We want a dialogue with civilizations, we don't want a clash of civilizations, we want the people of the world respecting one another," Carr said. *With a report from AFP*

RP nurses keep vigil as twins ...

SURGICAL team at the Children Hospital at Montefiore performs the second in a series of surgical procedures on 19-month-old conjoined twins, Carl and Clarence Aguirre. AP

From page A1

joined at the top of their heads.

Surgeons started separating the twins' shared blood vessels and gently pushed apart their brains during a 5 1/2-hour operation.

According to a spokesperson, Arlene spent a few extra minutes "kissing and playing with her sons" before Monday's operation began.

In a statement, the medical team said the operation had gone "beautifully" and the twins were resting in the pediatric critical care unit.

CLARENCE and Carl Aguirre after their first operation on Oct. 20 in New York. FILE PHOTO

Keeping company

Dr. Ceres Baldevia Gay, the Negrense doctor who initiated the fund-raising campaign that enabled the twins to get medical help, said Arlene was praying all the time and was very relieved when told the operation went well.

Gay kept Arlene company while the twins underwent surgery.

"Arlene was holding up pretty well but was tense while surgery was going on although she had a lot of well-wishers," Gay said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

"In fact the Filipino nurses organized a scheme where one of them would stay with Arlene during the surgery to take care of her needs such as food or anything to comfort her," Gay said.

She said the nurses also organized a Mass at the hospital at noon, which she and Arlene attended.

She said news of the surgery was carried in most newscasts in New York.

Gay said Arlene badly needed help in caring for the twins. Right now, she said, Arlene could only sleep less than five hours every day.

"She looks haggard and tired," Gay said.

She said Arlene tried to have her mother follow her to the United States but the latter has been denied a US visa twice already.

Halfway through

Dr. James Goodrich, the lead surgeon, said the overall work of separation was now at least 50 percent complete. The final separation could be accomplished in the third or possibly fourth operation, he said.

Dr. Robert Marion, the boys' pediatrician, said the team of 16 doctors and nurses encountered "exactly what they were expecting."

Goodrich said the surgical team used magnifying eyepieces to help them cut through and tie off four blood vessels. They also used "brain retractors" to create some space between the boys' brains, which were abutting but not intertwined.

The medical team had opened a "window" in the skull by removing a rectangular piece of bone, giving surgeons access to the blood vessels.

In the boys' first operation on Oct. 20, an opening was made at a different location.

Dr. David Staffenberg, another surgeon, repeated one procedure from the first operation—inserting a pouch called a tissue expander beneath one of the boys' scalp. More expanders could be inserted later, he said.

Two expanders that were implanted in October had to be removed when infections developed.

Expanders are designed to help the twins grow enough skin to cover their heads when they are separated. In several weeks, they are to be inflated with a saline solution to stretch the skin.

The team decided on a gradual approach, rather than a single marathon operation ending with the boys' separation, to reduce blood loss and help the twins adapt to each stage of the surgery, Goodrich said.

He said two or three operations could follow the separation to deal with "esthetic" matters such as reconstructing skulls for the two boys.

Two- to three-day wait

Staffenberg said no schedule for further surgery could be set until doctors see how the boys react to Monday's operation.

"We will just pay attention to how Carl and Clarence respond," he said.

Goodrich said any neurological damage would be apparent within two or three days.

Marion said last week that the new skull opening would present a healing problem after Monday's operation because it is in an area of the skull that the boys often lie on.

In addition, the boys may have to wear some kind of protective helmet after the operation to keep them from reaching for the wound where the expander was inserted, which may have caused the earlier infection, Marion said.

A necessary operation

The operation on the twins was requested by Arlene, a nurse who expressed her desire to have them separated so they would have an opportunity to lead independent lives.

Doctors considered the separation medically necessary for the twins, who have already suffered from aspiration pneumonia—resulting from food becoming trapped in their respiratory systems—and other medical challenges as a result of their current condition.

Marion said caring for the twins would be a long-term process. "They will continue to receive physical, occupational and speech therapy, as well as nutritional care to ensure that when they are separated, they will be strong and able to walk," he said.

Conjoined twins occur in approximately one in every 200,000 live births. Twins joined at the head are extremely rare—roughly one in 10 million live births.

The surgeons, the medical center and Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, where the boys spend most of their time and get nutritional and physical therapy, are donating their services. *AP, AFP*

Vatican accepts Bacani ...

From page A1

Section 2 of Canon 401 states that "a diocesan bishop, who because of illness or some other grave reason, has become unsuited for the fulfillment of his office is earnestly requested to offer his resignation from office."

The Nunciature, however, stressed that Bacani was not "requested" to tender his resignation, and that the appointment of Bishop Tobias to replace Bacani was "nothing more than a normal administrative provision."

Fr. Walter Erbi, first secretary of the Nunciature, said in a phone interview that Bacani tendered his resignation "to bring tranquility to everybody."

Only the Pope can accept the resignation of a bishop. "If (the Pope) deems it appropriate to appoint (Bacani) to another diocese," he can do so, Erbi said.

Expression of affection

Bacani's former secretary, who has been with his office for five years, complained to the Apostolic Nuncio that the bishop had made sexual advances on her early this year. Bacani allegedly hugged and kissed her. The bishop has denied the allegations but apologized for "any inappropriate expression of affection" to the secretary.

"The resignation of Bishop Bacani settles the case. No juridical decision has been made by Rome nor is it necessary. The appointment of Bishop Tobias is an administrative procedure, to bring peace to the Church in the Philippines," the Nunciature said.

Pained

Pastor Bacani, who talked with the bishop only the other day, said that his brother, "as an obedient son of the church, would accept and follow the Vatican's decision.

He admitted that the family was pained by the decision but that Bacani himself was "stronger than members of the family."

"He has entrusted himself to the Lord, He will continue to serve the Church. This is not a judicial sanction, it is an administrative provision," Pastor said.

"Of course the family is pained but we hope that it will be put to rest," Pastor said.

2nd bishop

Bacani is the second bishop that has been in the news for alleged involvement in a sex scandal. Bishop Crisostomo Yalung, who ran the archdiocese of Antipolo, earlier quit after being accused of fathering two children.

The Catholic Church in the country for the first time last year publicly apologized for sexual abuses committed by Filipino priests, but insisted that a majority of clergymen remained faithful to their vows.

The Church admitted that some 200 priests had been investigated for sexual misconduct over the past 20 years. Some were dismissed while most resigned voluntarily. *With a report from AFP*

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WWII shell explodes in PGH; 1 hurt

By Leila Salaverria

A MORTAR shell, said to be of World War II vintage, yesterday burst into flames inside the Philippine General Hospital compound in Manila after a construction worker accidentally touched it off with an acetylene torch.

Construction worker Jim Boy Alindo suffered burns on the right side of the face, affecting his right eye, and was rushed to the emergency room of the PGH.

Insp. Rudy Supsupin, head of the Explosives and Ordnance Division of the Western Police District, said that at around 10:30 a.m., Alindo was using an acetylene torch to remove a metal pole from one area of the compound, where a shed for water tanks was being built.

As Alindo worked the base of the pole, which was several inches below the ground, his acetylene torch set something off, burning his face.

"The bomb went up in flames, it did not explode," the EOD chief stressed.

Supsupin said Alindo might have thought that the bomb, which had a rusty, metal casing, was still part of the metal pole.

He identified the unexploded ordnance as an 81-millimeter shell that had probably been buried there since the Japanese occupation.

Wounded driver of kidnapped girl dies in hospital

THE DRIVER of the 10-year-old Filipino-Chinese girl kidnapped in Paco, Manila, last Nov. 21 died yesterday at the Philippine General Hospital.

Hilario Responso, 29, a native of Bais, Negros Oriental, died at the intensive care unit of the PGH at 1:40 a.m. due to a gunshot wound sustained during the abduction.

Responso was pronounced dead by Dr. Erwin Uy.

His body was brought to the Vazquez Funeral Homes in Real Street in Las Piñas.

Responso had been confined at the PGH since Friday because of a bullet wound in the face.

One of three suspects shot the driver at close range as he was bringing the victim to the St. Peter the Apostle Parish and School on Quirino Avenue extension.

The bullet entered his left cheek and exited below his right ear.

After shooting Responso, the suspects also shot the girl's nanny, Maricel de Dios, after she refused to let go of her ward.

De Dios is recuperating in the hospital.
Leila Salaverria

THIS police outpost on Masangkay Street in Tondo, Manila, offers little consolation to the anxious parents and children of nearby St. Stephen School—where the students are predominantly Chinese. Residents of the area are reeling from the rash of kidnappings and robberies that have hit Metro Manila in recent weeks. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

4 men claiming to be PDEA shoot NBI rookie

By Leila Salaverria and Luige del Puerto

A ROOKIE agent of the National Bureau of Investigation is now fighting for his life after he was shot by four men who claimed to be agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Marikina City on Monday night.

Several NBI agents are now trying to trace the men who shot Special Investigator Marvin Matamis, a member of the NBI's Intelligence Special Operations Division.

Matamis, who recently graduated from the NBI Academy, was on his way home on Monday night when he got into an argument with an FX taxi driver at around 8:30 p.m. on Tambali Street, Midtown Subdivision, Barangay San Roque, according to P02 Glenn Aculana of the Marikina police.

To settle the argument, Matamis decided to talk to a traffic enforcer. While they were talking, the four suspects approached the two men, introduced themselves as PDEA agents and asked what was going on.

Aculana said that in the next instant, "the suspects mauled the victim and shot him after."

Aculana could not say how or what triggered the violence.

"What's clear is that they had a heated argument," he told the INQUIRER.

Further investigation revealed that the alleged PDEA agents had come from a nearby establishment, the RBB Pub and Restaurant, and were reeking with beer.

Police have recovered the receipts of the food and drinks that the suspects had ordered.

According to witnesses the alleged PDEA agents left on board a white Toyota Revo.

Police heighten presence in malls, commercial areas

By Luige del Puerto

WITH the onset of the Christmas season, criminal elements are expected to flock to commercial centers to feast on the cash and valuables of shoppers. But the Eastern Police District (EPD) intends to spoil their appetite.

On Friday, the EPD will set up Police Express booths in malls, department stores and other shopping destinations to assist shoppers and help prevent crime.

"We're already into the Christmas season. People have money and criminals will want to take that money," EPD director Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento said in a phone interview.

For instance, Police Express booths will be set up at the gates of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, Riverbanks in Marikina City, Virra Mall in San Juan and Robinsons East in Pasig City.

Six cops would man each booth. They would include an investigator and foot patrolmen.

Meanwhile, Sacramento said that they have already fielded more motorcycle cops who could respond faster to emergencies, given the traffic situation in the area.

Among the motorcycle policemen dispatched are members of the Special Weapons and Tactics teams of each city and town within EPD jurisdiction and the six-member SWAT team under his office.

"They will help chase, apprehend or neutralize robbers and other criminals," he said.

A rash of robberies and kidnappings has hit Metro Manila over the last few weeks and the police have been unable to prevent these.

Police officials were quick to say that the crimes, particularly the rise of kidnapping incidents, could be part of efforts to destabilize the present administration.

Amid charges of inefficiency, cops say they're on the job

By Edson Tandoc Jr. and Margaux Ortiz

DON'T pin the blame on us.

While still on official leave, National Capital Region Police Office director Reynaldo Velasco yesterday told the INQUIRER that policemen in the metropolis have been doing their jobs.

Northern Police District director Marcelino Franco also said that they are doing all they can to contain the spate of crimes that has swept the metropolis.

"We won't be affected by criticisms," Franco said. "Despite adverse reports, the police will (continue to) work."

Earlier, President Macapagal-Arroyo warned the police that heads would roll if they fail to stop the rash of robberies and kidnappings in Metro Manila.

Following the kidnapping and killing of Betti Sy in Parañaque City on Nov. 18, a 10-year-old girl was abducted in Manila. On Monday, five men hit the Union Bank branch in Parañaque. Later that day, robbers hit a Security Bank armored van, killing a security guard.

Police have identified two more suspects in the Union Bank robbery.

According to Senior Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief, Ramil Besin and Wilfredo Peñamayor were identified from file photos of suspects involved in past robberies.

METROBRIEFS

Death sentence

A PASIG City court last week sentenced to death Acmad Pandapatan for raping his underage daughter inside their house in Taguig two years ago. Regional Trial Court Branch 261 Judge Agnes Carpio also ordered Pandapatan to pay his daughter P150,000 in damages. Court records showed that Pandapatan used a knife to threaten his daughter, then 15, before raping her in September 2000. *Luige del Puerto*

Rapped for slapping

INSP. Agapito Nacario, fire marshal of the Caloocan City Fire Station, has been charged before the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court for allegedly slapping a subordinate who had executed a sloppy salute three years ago. Assistant City Prosecutor Maximo Usita Jr. found probable cause to rap Nacario for slander by deed as the act of slapping the complainant, P02 Enrico Cabrera, was intended to humiliate if not ridicule him. The INQUIRER tried to reach Nacario for comment but a member of his staff said he was unavailable. *Tina Santos*

Smashup in Pasig City

ROGELIO Nels and Jerson Acubia yesterday were hurt after a delivery truck plowed into five vehicles, including a ten-wheel truck, in Pasig City. Police said Nels was at the helm of the truck that hit the other vehicles, while Acubia was the driver of a Viva Records delivery truck. Police said four vehicles—a passenger jeepney, a Mitsubishi Lancer, a Starex Van, and the Viva truck—had stopped on Julia Vargas, Barangay Ugong, at around 12:30 p.m. to give way to a ten-wheel truck which was making a U-turn. But before the truck could complete its turn, Nel's truck reportedly lost its brakes and hit the four vehicles. On impact, the vehicles were pinned to the still moving ten-wheel truck. *Luige del Puerto*

Phone pal cop nailed

ALI RAMIREZ on Monday was arrested after he allegedly tried to pass himself off as a policeman and extorted P350,000 from a 75-year-old woman. National Bureau of Investigation agents set up a trap for Ramirez, 29, who met and and befriended his intended victim, Avelina Montemayor, through the phone. After he was arrested, Ramirez told investigators that he merely wanted to get money to help his ailing mother who has been paralyzed after a stroke. *Leila Salaverria*

Ateneo Zambo meet

THE ATENEO de Zamboanga University Metro Manila Alumni Association (ADZUMMAA) will meet on Dec. 13 at the Penthouse, Archipelago Building, No. 29 North Avenue, Diliman Quezon City. ADZUMMAA president Paulino Pe said a Mass will be offered at 6 p.m. to commemorate Advent. For details, call Ms Gaen Gaetos at (0917) 532-5051 or 926-8069.

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DOH gives up on banning firecrackers

By Blanche S. Rivera

BOWING to the tradition of firecrackers being part of the Filipino way of greeting Christmas and the New Year, the Department of Health hinted yesterday that it was giving up on its campaign to seek a total ban on pyrotechnic materials.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said it would be "complicated" to seek legislative intervention on totally outlawing the traditional merrymaking tools.

Instead, the DOH would focus on helping in the crack down on people who indiscriminately fire guns during these occasions.

Dayrit said he would be ordering all hospitals to turn over to the DOH the slugs taken from victims of stray bullets during the holidays last year.

"Before, we just counted the stray bullets. We did not go into the science of it," Dayrit said in a press briefing at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Dayrit made the announcement after the JRMMC revealed that the Philippine National Police had not been requesting the hospital to turn over slugs recovered from victims of indiscriminate firing.

Arturo Platon, former head of the JRMMC emergency department, said the hospital had around 50 slugs from this year's cases, although not all were from the holiday merriment.

The JRMMC presented slugs of various firearms from .22-caliber, .38-caliber, 9mm and .45-caliber guns.

Platon said nothing was happening to the campaign of the DOH against indiscriminate firing during the holidays because the PNP was not collecting the slugs for examination.

This time, Dayrit said, the DOH would initiate the turn over of the slugs to the PNP for ballistics testing.

This would help the government determine which firearms are usually used by those who fire guns during the holidays.

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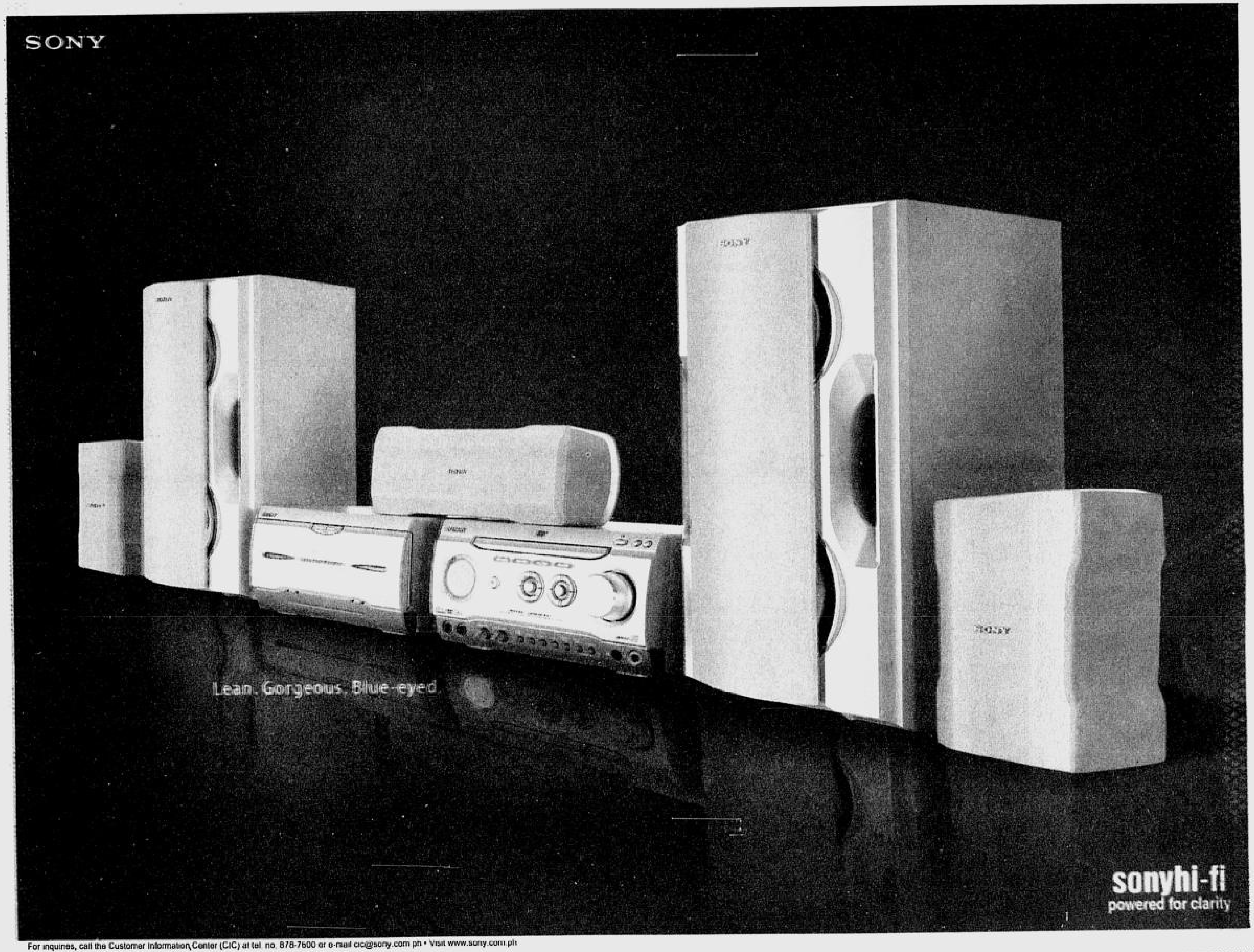

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NAZARIO ADMISSION

It's a $700,000 purse for Manny

BOXING hero Manny Pacquiao salutes congressmen with Speaker Jose de Venecia (right) after the House of Representatives awarded him the Congressional Medal of Achievement. VAL HANDUMON

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANNY Pacquiao spent $350,000 (P19.3 million) training to beat Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera and win $350,000.

"Yes, it's true," said Pacquiao's business manager Rod Nazario yesterday referring to the INQUIRER story the other day that cable television network HBO had paid a whopping $700,000 as purse of the Filipino fighter in what proved to be his most memorable bout ever.

"But most of it was spent making payments (for Pacquiao's training) in the States," said Nazario over lunch after the PSA Forum, where he declared a Pacquiao fight in Manila against a fellow world champion is next to impossible because about P40 million is needed to stage it.

"Why is the media trying to know how much?" asked Nazario. "It paints a bad picture of our champion, when he worked very hard to bring honor (to our country)," he added.

But Nazario didn't explain why the purse of Pacquiao was announced only as $350,000.

Pacquiao, sporting a gold Rolex Daytona on his wrist, didn't make any comment and instead let Nazario do the talking.

Before the fight, Pacquiao's American trainer Freddie Roach said the Filipino should have been guaranteed $1 million, the purse Barrera received after absorbing an 11th round technical knockout loss last Nov. 16 at the Alamodome in Texas.

The $700,000 Pacquiao payday was inadvertently mentioned by two HBO commentators in the course of the fight, according to Boston Herald's George Kimball in his news report Monday.

With this development, members of Team Pacquiao stand to earn more since earlier reports said the training expenses were to be deducted from the $350,000 Pacquiao purse.

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40-plus gold harvest 'not enough for 5th'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHERE will more than 40 golds bring us?

This was the question Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit refused to answer yesterday after predicting an improved gold-medal performance by the Philippines in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games next week.

"We should hit more than 40 golds, but how much more we need to finish higher than fifth place, it's difficult to predict," said Dayrit during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion.

"Our athletes are ready to go no matter what the odds are. They will be out there fighting for our country."

The Philippines captured 31 golds in Kuala Lumpur two years ago and finished fifth behind overall winner Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

The Philippine Sports Commission, which is financing the participation of the 658-strong RP contingent, sees a 40-60 medal haul and hopefully a third place finish.

Weighing down the country's chances is the expected surge in the overall standings by host Vietnam, which Dayrit called as the "China of Southeast Asia in the future."

"Being the host country, Vietnam will vie for the overall championship. Let's give credit where credit is due. Vietnam spent a fortune and prepared hard for this," he added.

However, Dayrit echoed complaints from several national sports associations which reportedly failed to get their equipment from the PSC on time.

He noted that even his own NSA, the fencing association, had to order "substandard" equipment from China because its financial support from the PSC got delayed.

"The PSC was not able to support the training of our athletes as much as they should," said Dayrit. "With this I would like to commend the NSA presidents who have done their part advancing (money) and extending (their support) for most of the training requirements of our athletes."

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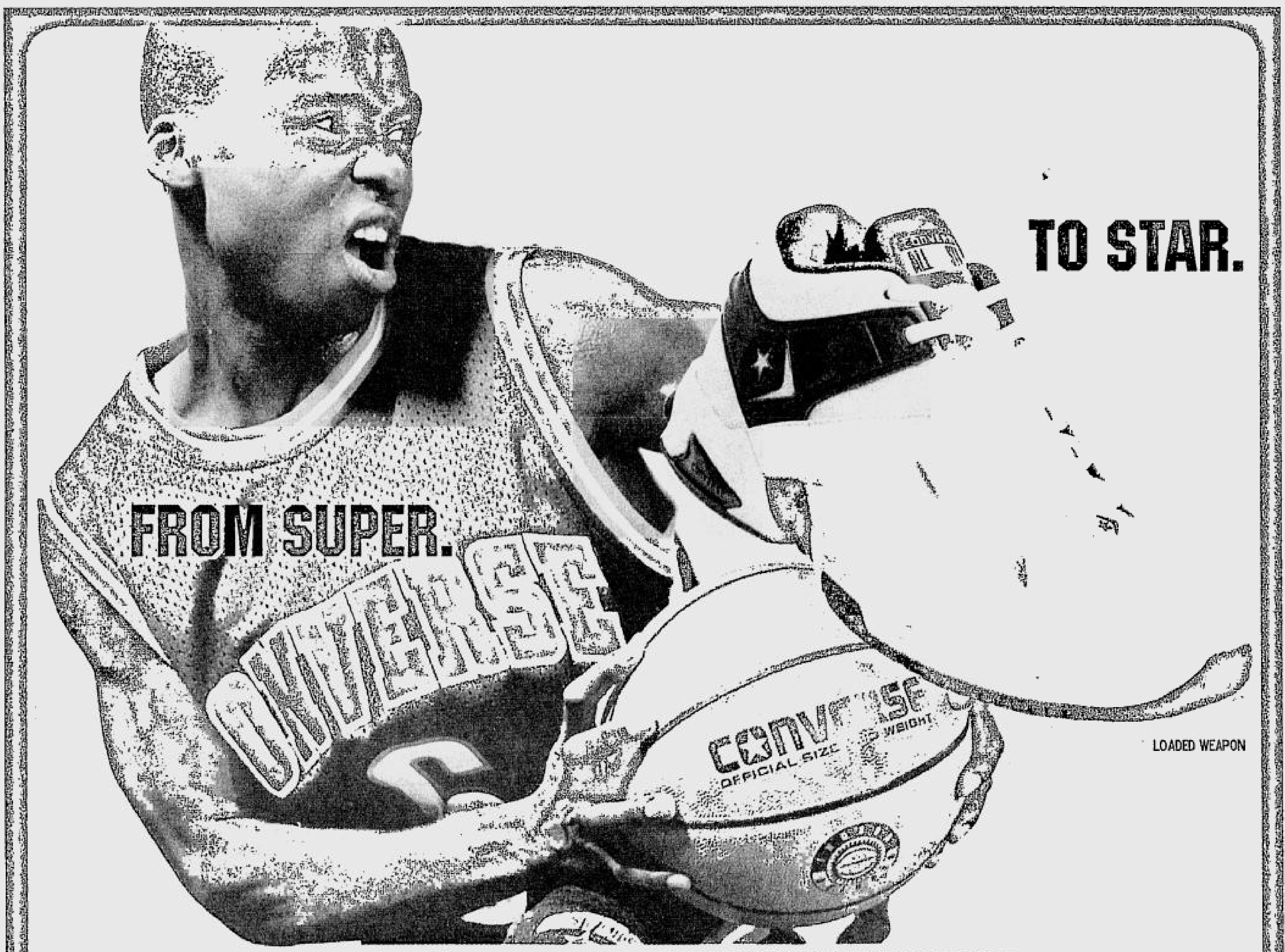

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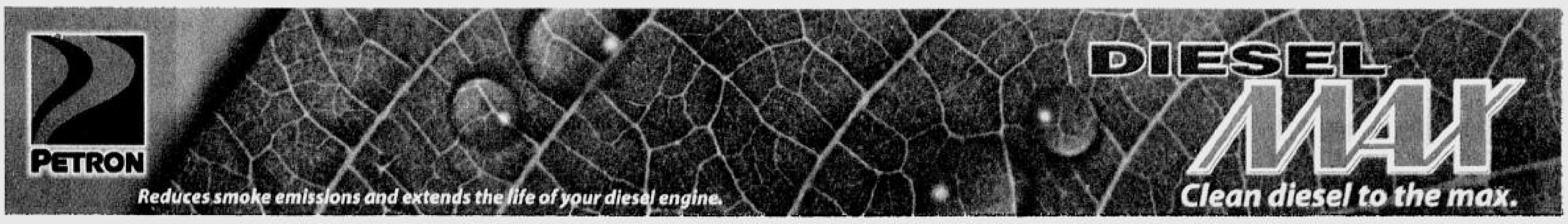

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Manuel lifts Spring past MayniLA

SAN PABLO CITY—Rodel Manuel sank an unmolested layup with six seconds left as Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo 7 Lakers pulled off a 74-72 squeaker over Restolax/Mail & More-MayniLA Monday in the 2003 Panasonic-NBL Regional Cup tournament at the Florante Aquino Stadium here.

Manuel, who fired 12 of his 16 points in the final half, streaked home after getting the inbound pass to give the Lakers their first homecourt triumph and their second in the tourney.

In the other game, Ilocos Sur's Snipers downed Sulpicio Lines-Pampanga Raging Bulls, 91-84, to improve to 4-1.

Scores:

First Game

ILOCOS SUR 91—Evans 29, Reyes 18, Machica 15, Agapito 12, Ferrela 10, Barbosa 5, Butel 2, Silona 0, Cabradilla 0.

PAMPANGA 84—Bansil 19, Llangco 16, Garcia 14, Pile 8, Tolentino 8, Tadeo 8, Pua 7, Tan 2, Yambao 2.

Quarters: 25-21, 40-40, 64-60, 91-84

Second Game

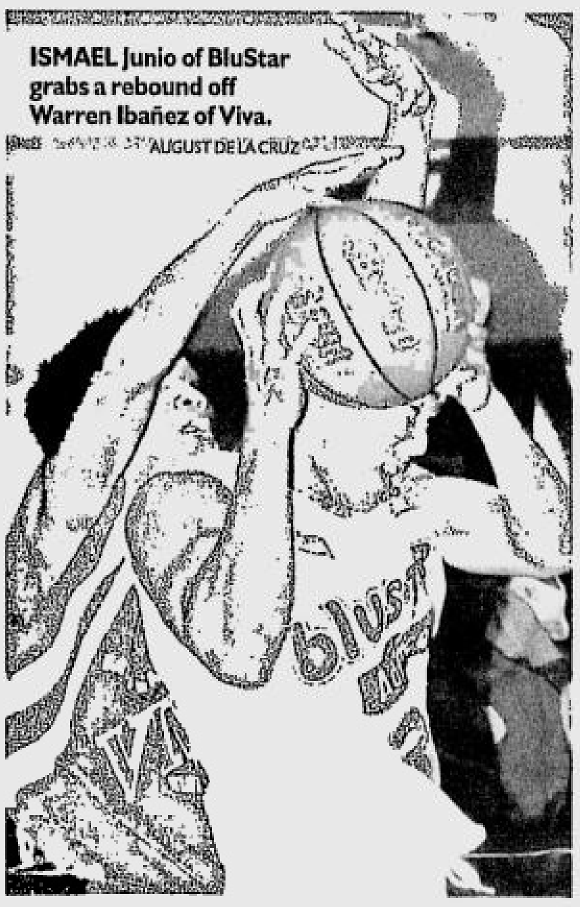
SPRING-SP 74—Crisostomo 16, Manuel 16, Limbo 13, Taguines 8, Menor 8, Reyes 4, Alberto 4, Mendoza 3, Tolentino 2, Habelito 0, Maghirang 0.

MAYNILA 72—Serrano 14, Ricafuente 12, Caceres 12, Finullar 9, Buendia 7, Epondulan 7, Sanz 5, Mallari 3, Manucat 2, Salvador 1, Garcia 0, Alabanza 0, Corbin 0.

Quarters: 24-20, 38-35, 62-53, 74-72

Welcoat five too classy for Montaña

By Marc Anthony Reyes


ISMAEL Junio of BluStar grabs a rebound off Warren Ibañez of Viva.
AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

THE SHOOTOUT between the league's top gunners was a draw but Welcoat proved loaded with other scorers and routed Montaña, 94-66, yesterday to keep the PBL Platinum Cup lead at the Pasig Sports Center.

Philippine team mainstay James Yap matched the 11-point production of league scoring leader Gary David of Montaña and the Paint Masters, led by two other RP aces, overwhelmed the Gems with superior firepower that saw them take a 68-44 lead after three quarters.

It was the fifth victory in six games for the Paint Masters, who dumped the Jewels down to a tie for second place with idle Fash Liquid Detergent at 3-2.

BluStar Detergent beat Viva Mineral Water, 70-67, to improve to 3-3.

GAMES TOMORROW ***(UST Gym)***
1:45 p.m.—Montaña vs ICTSI-La Salle
3:45 p.m.—Fash Liquid vs Sunkist-UST

Meanwhile, the Angola national team, a seven-time African champion, will play a match against Welcoat at 2 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum.

The Angolans, who arrived Tuesday night, will test the mettle of the SEA Games-bound RP Team on Saturday.

Scores:

First Game

WELCOAT 94—Pingris 18, Sotto 12, Tangkay 11, Yap 11, Omolon 11, Artadi 8, Capus 7, Cuan 6, Santos 6, Wilson 2, Reyes 2, Kalaw 0.

MONTAÑA 66—Coronel 16, Salvador 12, David 11, Magsumbol 7, Alfad 6, Mendoza 6, Basco 4, Enrile 2, Guerrero 2, Sayon 0, Manigo 0, Saniel 0.

Quarters: 22-13, 43-30, 68-44, 94-66.

Second Game

BLUSTAR 70—De la Cuesta 24, Pascual 14, Gamboa 12, Junio 9, Mesina 6, Ferrer 3, Victoria 2, Lopez 0, David 0, Almeda 0.

VIVA 67—Ybanez 13, Yabut 10, Jones 10, Miranda 7, Misolas 7, Margate 5, Co 4, Islp 4, Rizada 3, Napa 2, Razon 2, Sinco 0.

Quarters: 19-18; 35-36; 53-57; 70-67

Coke, TNT gun for 2-0 lead over rivals

COCA-COLA and San Miguel Beer try to step closer to a title showdown when they go for 2-0 leads against their semifinal rivals today in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

The Beermen get going first against the Sta. Lucia Realtors at 5 p.m., with the Coke Tigers roaring into action at 7:30 p.m. against the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

Although both handily won the opener of their respective best-of-five series, Coke and SMB remain wary of their rivals for different reasons.

GAMES TODAY ***(Philsports Arena)***
5 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs San Miguel
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk 'N Text

The Tigers, 88-73 winners last Sunday, know only too well what the Phone Pals can do. In the All Filipino Cup title playoffs last June, Coke took a 2-0 lead but TNT captured the next four games of the best-of-seven series to clinch its first ever title in the league.

"We have the psychological advantage. But even if we win Game 2 and take a 2-0 lead, it will be useless if we cannot finish the series. You have to remember what happened to us in the All Filipino Finals," said Coke coach Chot Reyes.

The Beermen, on the other hand, showed more energy in posting a 109-88 win over the Realtors. "They (Realtors) had little rest coming into Game 1. I'm quite sure they will regain their composure in Game 2," said SMB coach Jong Uichico.

Marlou Aquino of SLR was slapped with two deliberate fouls during the game and will be penalized.

June Navarro

PSA has problem with Pacquiao

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE TRAGEDY of Marco Antonio Barrera is that he had never before met someone as mighty and magical as Manny Pacquiao.

A boxer as strong, sharp, sweeping as Pacquiao had existed only in Barrera's imagination.

OK, everybody would agree Pacquiao surpassed himself in conquering the seemingly invincible Mexican idol.

Suddenly, there seems no stopping the adulation and accolade.

Pacquiao, indeed, is the greatest that ever happened to Philippine sports.

Maybe the closest we could compare the incredible feat to is an Olympic gold medal. But this gold of golds, unfortunately, has continued to elude Filipino glory seekers.

***

Pacquiao was accorded a ticker-tape welcome worthy only of the greatest Filipino hero.

He got a whopping P1-million check courtesy of our appreciative President.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza gave him a house, before hosting a rousing party by the bay later on Monday.

And there seems no stopping the party.

While Mexico grieves the tragedy of Barrera's fall, Manila swoons and swings to a most glorious moment on the other end of the globe.

Nothing of this sort has happened here before, nothing of this sort has been accorded a Filipino athlete in the past.

Add to this the fact that, although he had snubbed the awards the last time out, Pacquiao is a hands-down choice as the Athlete of the Year awardee of the Philippine Sportswriters Association for 2003.

***

Now, let's see. We've a little problem here.

Going by the merits and impact of Pacquiao's achievement, the PSA may have no choice but rethink the annual awards.

Why? Well, it goes without saying that his mesmerizing feat, if not Pacquiao himself, has become too big for the Athlete of the Year accolade *per se*.

Not to belittle what CJ Suarez has done by winning this year's bowling World Cup.

The women's trio of Liza Clutario, Liza del Rosario and Cecilia Yap also had a scintillating victory in the world tenpin championships that had the sports world saluting the Filipinas.

These achievers are definitely deserving of the Athlete(s) of the Year honors.

But everybody must agree that Pacquiao deserves something bigger from the ranks of editors and scribes who chronicle the ups and downs of Filipino athletes here and abroad.

***

The PSA undoubtedly is composed of imaginative fellows. Truth is that an ordinary glory jersey may no longer fit the boxing hero.

So it should not come as a surprise if the PSA, headed by veteran Bert Cuevas, sports editor of Manila Standard, which had adopted the habit of calling Pacquiao "Money Pacquiao," comes up with an innovation truly fitting of Pacquiao's immeasurable stature.

For a change, the PSA could agree to give out something like an "All-Time Great Award."

Anything bigger than the Athlete of the Year honor should help make the greatest achievement by a Filipino boxer truly memorable.

Pacquiao, the champ of champs, surpassed himself in bringing home the greatest sporting honor to the nation.

It only follows that the PSA could also match the achievement with something new, unusual and truly unforgettable.

There's actually an urgent need for this extraordinary move.

Why? Well, by the look and shape of things, local horse race wonder Wind Blown appears a shoo-in among ordinary honorees in the 2003 PSA honor scroll.

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SPORTSWATCH

Ailing Mourning retires

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Alonzo Mourning's National Basketball Association career ended here Monday with the announcement that the New Jersey Nets center needs a kidney transplant. The seven-time All-Star center will never play professional basketball again, New Jersey Nets president and general manager Rod Thorn said in making the announcement here Monday. Mourning never won an NBA title or played in the NBA Finals but was a member of the 2000 gold medal United States Olympic Team. The second overall pick in the 1992 draft, Mourning played his first three seasons with the Charlotte Hornets and the next eight with the Heat. He averaged 20.3 points and 9.8 rebounds in those 11 seasons and was named NBA Defensive Player of the Year in 1999 and 2000. *AFP*

Bulls coach fired

CHICAGO—Never able to find success coaching the Chicago Bulls the way he had as the team's captain, Bill Cartwright was fired here Monday as coach of the National Basketball Association club. Cartwright, 46, had a 51-100 record since replacing Tim Floyd 23 months ago as coach of the once-mighty team, which has floundered since Cartwright's ex-teammate Michael Jordan's departure after leading Chicago to six NBA crowns. **NBA results**: New York 94, Boston 88; Indiana 89, Orlando 78; Detroit 94, Atlanta 89. *AFP*

San Sebastian beats UV

SAN Sebastian College leaned on the heroics of veterans Chris Baluyot and Nicole Uy to subdue University of Visayas, 87-80, yesterday at the start of Big Eight action in the Champions' League at the FEU gym. Baluyot drilled in the go-ahead three-pointer and added a jumper entering the last two minutes while Uy sank two free throws and completed a breakaway layup to seal the final tally and complete the Stags' second half comeback. Uy paced the Stags with 21 points while Baluyot chipped in 18 despite playing the dying minutes with a cramped leg. Ababon tried to carry the fight for the Lancers with his 22-point effort, but he missed his final three triple attempts. The Stags now wait the winner between Ateneo and Holy Cross of Davao on Dec. 1 at the Adamson gym.

Saraza upsets Sy

BAGUIO—Kim Ivor Saraza upset top seed Akio Sy, 6-1, 6-4 to bag the boys' 12-under title of the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here at the Baguio Tennis Club. Saraza shared the limelight with Kyle Cordero in the unisex 10-under; Patrick Arevalo in the boys' 14-under; Gerard Ngo in the boys' 16-under; Jimmy Tangalin in the boys' 18-under; and Zhane Quitara, who ruled the girls' 12 and 14-under categories. Cordero whipped Juan Pocholo Macalino, 6-2, 6-2, and Arevalo downed Ngo, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3. Ngo redeemed himself with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 win over Daniel Macalino. Tangalin routed Lyndon Mantua, 6-0, 6-1, and Quitara routed Regina Santiago twice in the event organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and NBN-4 Sunday TV show Sports Kids.

54th Fil-Am golf in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—SMART Communications Inc. is the presenter while Northwest Airlines and Royal Caribbean International are the major sponsors in the 54th Fil-Am golf championship here. Baguio Country Club general manager Anthony de Leon and Camp John Hay Golf Club GM Heiner Maulbecker, the tournament's organizing committee co-chair, bared this yesterday. Sixty-seven teams from here and abroad are competing in the tournament set at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay Golf Club Dec. 1-6.

Most outstanding athletes

TENNIS ballboy Jason Pasamba of Imus Pilot-Cavite and Puerto Princesa's sepak takraw sensation Webster Rosas lead the awardees as Most Outstanding Athletes (MOA) in the just-concluded 2003 Milo Little Olympics at the Rizal Memorial Sports Center. Pasamba was adjudged MOA in the elementary tennis event and will be rewarded the P5,000 educational assistance plus a plaque in the awarding ceremonies set Thursday at the Century Park Hotel. Rosas won the MOA for high school sepak takraw competitions. Pasamba shared the MOA award with Aurora A. Quezon grade schoolers Revect Lagarto (sepak takraw), Danmark Alfonso (chess), Darrell Clemente (football), Ma. Fatima Apuyan (athletics), Jamelee Vicencio of St. James Academy (badminton) and Jovani Cabanatan of Marist (table tennis).

Bakbakan nat'l derby on

AFTER eight qualifying rounds across the country and the two-day semifinals last Saturday and Monday, the 2003 Bakbakan National 8-Stag Derby finally gets underway today at the Araneta Coliseum. The championship starts at 10 a.m. with 140 fights lined up. The Cagayan Valley Gamefowl Breeders Association is eyeing a threepeat, a hall of fame status and a permanent ownership of the Bakbakan Perpetual Trophy. Shooting for top honors are seven 5 pointers, six 4.5 pointers and 46 four pointers (4 wins 1 loss). There were 13 entries with 3.5 points apiece and 57 3-pointers. "*Konting suerte na lang ang kailangan*," CVGBA president Gerry Alivia said of his group's chances of scoring a three-peat. Alivia lost his final match last Monday night, denying his entry, CVGBA Sa. Gattaran, its fifth point. CVGBA boasts one 5-pointer (engineer Eddie Solangon) and eight entries with 4-1 slates. The Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association has three entries among the undefeated bets—D-Bagani, Ricsan and Sagupaaan BPZ of breeder Boy Primalion. Hosted by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (nfgb.sabungero.com), Bakbakan 2003 is presented by Thunderbird Platinum, Casino Filipino and Derby Ace.

'Apordabol' 5-cocker

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit welcomes the 2003-2004 cock season by staging the "Apordabol Na, Incredibol Pa 5-Cock Derby" on Saturday. To be hosted by Rolly Ligon, this event (Nov. 29, Dec 6, 11 and 13), offers a guaranteed prize of P2.25 million for an entry fee of P8,800. A Nissan Serena goes to the fastest kill champion. Participants on Saturday must present their entries on Friday at Roligon office. For details, call 833-2275 and 833-1638. Meanwhile, beginning Friday, Roligon's new hackfight schedule is every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Pit manager Renato Shio said the first 20 winners will get P1,000 each as bonus.

REYES eyeing another victory.

Bata tops Japan tilt

WIN one, gun for another. After topping the All-Japan Championship Monday, Efren "Bata" Reyes' flew back to Manila yesterday to play in the Cafe Puro-sponsored 1st Philippine Open and Invitational 9-Ball Championship now under way in Mandaluyong City.

Reyes defeated Tasuki Nishio of Japan, 11-7, in the final of the Osaka meet to pocket the $18,000 (P440,000) first prize. It was Reyes' third All-Japan title.

Returning with Reyes were Django Bustamante, who finished sixth worth $2,000 (P110,000) in the All-Japan meet, and Alex Pagulayan, who defeated Reyes in the final of the Tokyo International 9-Ball Championship on Nov. 9.

Reyes, Bustamante and Pagulayan are among the 16 seeded players in the Philippine Open being held at Octogon hall, 4th level, Robinsons Galleria.

Sixty players from six countries—Philippines 39, Chinese Taipei 9, Japan 7, Malaysia 2, Norway 2, and United States 1—are taking part in the elimination round. The top 16 finishers advance to Stage 2 where they will join the 16 seeded entries.

The Philippine Open, organized by Puyat Sports and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., offers prizes totaling $64,000 (P3.5M). The winner gets $20,000 (P1.1M).

The other seeded players are Earl Strickland, Corey Deuel and Rodney Morris (US); Mika Immonen (Finland); Thorsten Hohmann and Ralf Souquet (Germany); Marcus Chamat (Sweden); Park Shin Young and Jeong Young Hwa (Korea); Yang Ching Shun and Hsia Hui Kai (Taiwan); Kunikiho Takahashi and Satoshi Kawabata (Japan).

A superb race

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

CHAMPION *talaga*. There's no other word to describe him. Before Wind Blown, the millionaire horse owned by businessman Hermie Esguerra, won his third comeback race last Sunday at the Santa Ana Park, everybody was saying this was going to be no ordinary race. And they were right.

Making his keenly awaited appearance at the 8th SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup, Wind Blown, the Tiger Woods of Philippine horseracing, won his *sayonara* race with aplomb, storming to a six-length victory after outclassing a topnotch field that included Golden Ballet, his erstwhile tormentor, unpredictable Lyonnais, Hyperbid, Staunch Ally and Silver Story.

Under the brilliant handling of super jockey Jeffril Zarate, the seven-year-old Wind Blown (Hazm-Wind in my Hair) covered the 2,050-meter race in 2:13 flat, pocketing the first prize money of P600,000 and closing his career with earnings of more than P18 million in 49 appearances where he won 36 races.

Wind Blown won his first comeback race last Oct. 26 in the Saddle & Clubs Special Race and galloped to victory No. 2 in the Philtobo-Mitra Cup on Nov. 9. Then on Sunday, also at Santa Ana, the usual outstanding favorite (Wind Blown sold a record-high of close to P1.8 million) accomplished a hat-trick by winning the SMB-Breeders' Cup before his legions of followers.

"I was never threatened," said a beaming jockey Zarate. "He's definitely one of the best horses I've ever ridden."

Wind Blown was pumped up, making a perfect start when the gates opened. After sizing up the field, he stormed to a lopsided victory, six lengths clear of arch rival Golden Ballet, who nosed out Lyonnais at the pay-off wire. Hyperbid finished fourth, Staunch Ally fifth and Silver Story sixth and last.

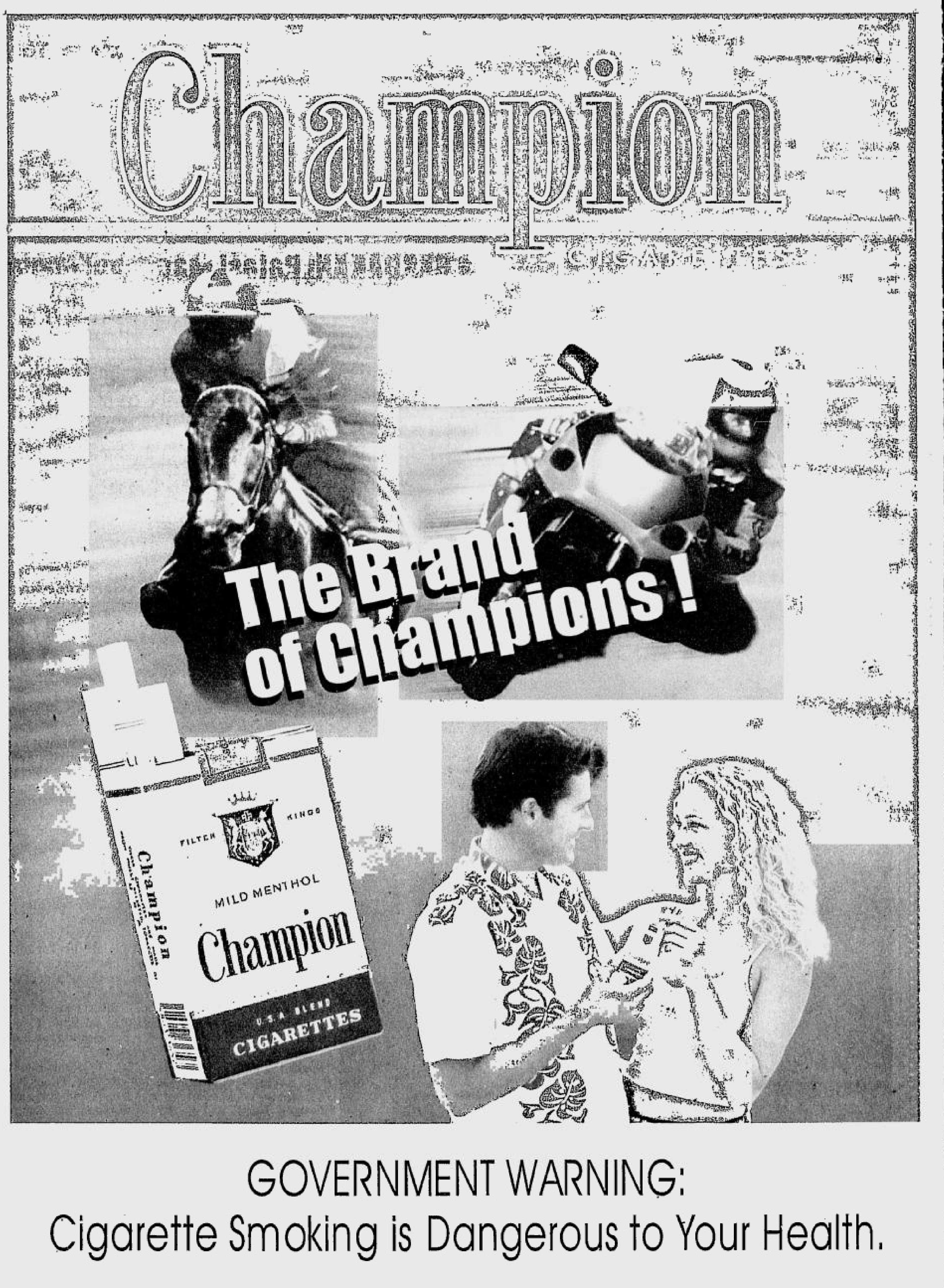
Named top horse in 2001 and 2002, Wind Blown's masterful triumph on Sunday boosted his chances of winning a third straight Horse of the Year award. Proud owner Esguerra, who came with his wife Malu, received the imposing SMB-Marho silver cup from association president Putch Puyat, who also deserves our congratulations for a job well done.

***

BILLIARDS BLOCKBUSTER. Efren "Bata" Reyes, fresh from his victory in the All-Japan Championship in Osaka on Monday, is my bet to win the Café Puro-sponsored 1st Philippine Open and Invitational 9-Ball billiards tourney which gets going today at the Octagon Hall of the Robinsons Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

Even though he is 49 years old now, Reyes still flashes his smooth, oftentimes, incredible shots, which earned him the monicker "The Magician." He is a thinking player, who is gifted with an awesome safety game and natural shot-making ability. Besides, Reyes is always a consistent top finisher in most of the major international tournaments held here and in other parts of the world.

In the ongoing four-day pool spectacle organized by Puyat Sports and ABS-CBN, Reyes is expected to meet tough opposition from a pair of 24-year-old players—reigning world champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany and Canada-based Filipino Alex Pagulayan. The tournament champion gets $20,000.



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'MASTER AND COMMANDER'

Unsinkable seafaring saga

REVIEW

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

ALMOST everyone would agree that making a good book into a movie is a delicate undertaking. Fans of the book are always difficult to please, and even those who haven't read the book sometimes pretend they have read it in order to have the so-called moral ascendancy of criticizing the movie version.

I have no such pretensions. To tell you the truth, I haven't read any of the series of books written by 20th century author Patrick O'Brian, upon which the movie "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" is based. But I'm heading to a bookstore after I finish writing this article. Because if any of those books are every bit as compelling as the movie I have just seen, then they would be well worth the purchase.

Maybe the camera adds a sense of immediacy that the author of the book intended all along. Maybe there is something special about actually seeing O'Brian's stories unfold on the big screen. Whatever, director Peter Weir has managed to bring home with style and a sense of purpose to a whole new world of non-O'Brian-readers like me a worthwhile movie everyone should see.

Weir, who previously helmed films like "Dead Poets Society," "Fearless" and "The Truman Show," energizes the screen with a movie that gives the audience not only an involving narrative and characters to care about, but marvelous visuals as well, with the help of cinematographer Russell Boyd and production designer William Sandell.

I wouldn't be going out on a limb when I say that this is the best seafaring movie I've seen so far. One can enjoy it for the sheer physical exuberance of its adventure. It is magnificently mounted and photographed. I sat on the first row in the movie house and got immersed in the glory of a sailing ship and the exhilaration of its voyage.

Demythologizing

The first scene alone gives you a delicious feel of the ship and the sea. The pre-dawn watch change aboard the HMS Surprise (captained by Russell Crowe's "Lucky" Jack Aubrey), with the ship rising and falling with the swells as silhouetted sailors scurry up and down vertigo-inducing roped riggings, is majestic. But the ensuing tour of the ship's innards is also demythologizing. While it may have been seen as a glamour job then to be sailing in the British fleet that dominated the oceans, we see the hardscrabble life and the grub that goes along with it—not to mention the danger.

The officer of the watch sees something in the fog and the other officers are roused to go on deck. They dress up in their top hats and coats even if they look like they have gone for weeks without a proper bath, and they do so, ironically, only to prepare for battle.

The first cannon shot arrives, a seemingly harmless light flashing in the mist that shatters the silence in the theater. Suddenly men fall down amidst explosions. They struggle to regain their bearings and get ready to fight back. The camera hurtles through the ship from one end to the other, plunging through cramped openings, hurdling obstacles on deck, ducking under hammocks and swinging light fixtures.

Nerve-wracking

The scene is superbly executed, not so much from a special effects perspective but in the way the movie keeps us on the edge of our seats. We feel trapped in the same time and space as these men of the Surprise, at times as helpless as the boys (most of the midshipmen in the movie are noble-born adolescents) who can only duck and hope that the long-range cannons of the Acheron (the superior ship of the French enemy they're supposed to hunt and destroy or capture) will miss them.

This is peril perfectly evoked, an intense and nerve-wracking sequence that is apt to elevate the heart rate of even the most blasé viewer. And the movie is just starting.

Later on as Lucky Jack accounts for his men, asking his best friend and the ship's resident physician, Dr. Stephen Maturin (Paul Bettany), about the "butcher's bill," we get to see the terrible ramifications of naval battles up close. They're not the cleanest sort of warfare as the casualties will show, and one amputation scene will have you wincing and biting your lip to keep you from crying out (indeed much like the victim).

Depth, urgency

But like I said, "Master" is not just a well-crafted example of a movie of pure sensation. It delivers the goods with human insight. You have to give it its due respect: a movie that even with such epic overtones has enough guts to focus on individual characters. Even the secondary characters, who are usually only sketchily realized in other movies, are more fleshed out in "Master." They are no longer just familiar faces lurking in the background. Some of them we see as boys with hopes and dreams for the future, and others as men with histories both painful and beautiful.

By developing so many characters this well, Weir and his co-writer, John Collee, are able to add greater depth and urgency to the action scenes and increase the poignancy of the movie's quiet moments.

There are, we are informed at the beginning of the movie, 197 souls on board the Surprise. Even though we don't get to know each and every one of them, it does seem, after watching the movie, that we've sailed with them, that together with them we've learned the most powerful and elemental lesson the sea can teach: that each crew member's life is essentially in the hands of his fellow crew members. And we understand why these sailors are united by bonds stronger than family or blood.

Need to survive

It's not difficult or ethically troubling for us to find ourselves empathizing with the men of the Surprise, even if we're not British and even if we've got no tiff with the French, who for most of the film remain faceless and moral-less entities.

All of them are just following their bliss, as mythologist Joseph Campbell once called it, just doing what they're meant to do, even in the face of stiff opposition, even to the point of risking their lives. They do courageous acts not so much because they like to act heroic but because they must. Their motivation is not heroism but the need to survive. Yet they're not, for the most part, unhappy men. They find romance and poetry and take joy in their dirty, dangerous, and only sometimes glamorous mission. Somehow they survive, jubilant for life as they are for victory.

"Master" may be a movie based on a book (or books) about British sailors. But it's also about a humanity that we could all very well relate to as Filipinos.

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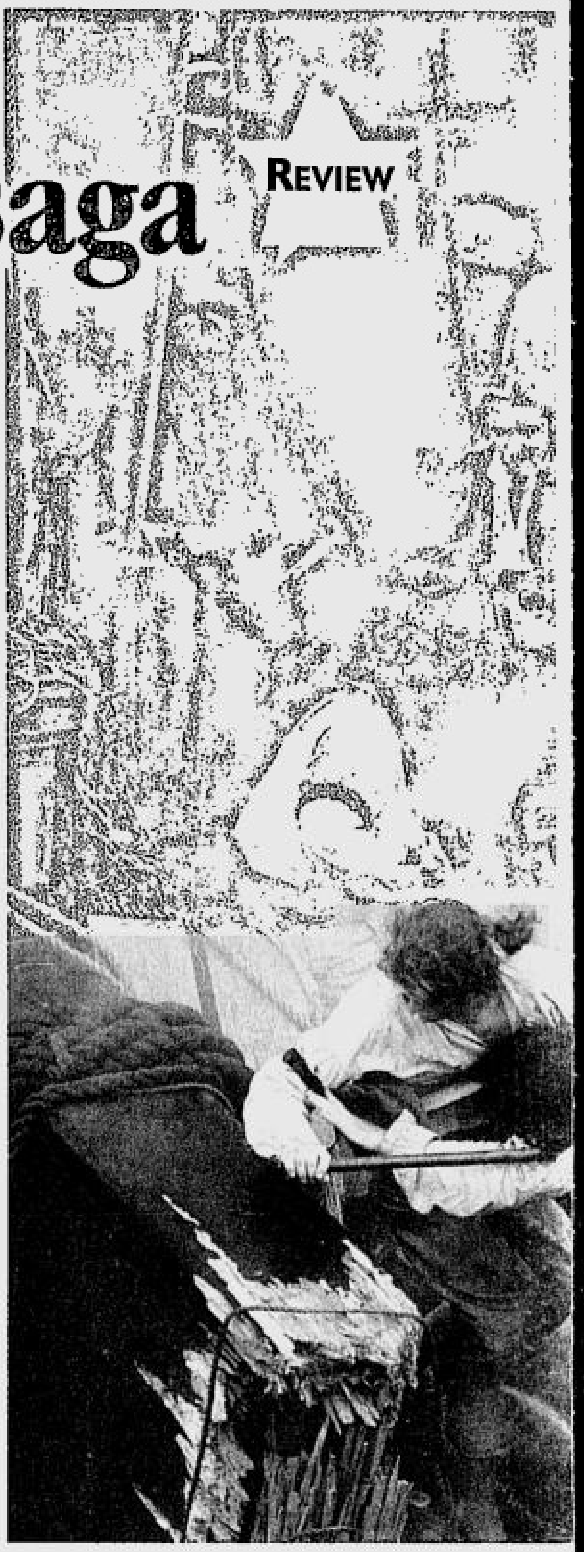


MAGNIFICENT. This reviewer sat on the first row anc
mounted and photographed opus

FAP has new ad

THE FILM Academy of the Philippines has a new home: the ground floor of the Octo Arts Building at 108 Panay Avenue Quezon City.

The new office also houses some of the working guilds, including those of the screenwriters, the assistant directors and production managers, cinematographers, editors and others.

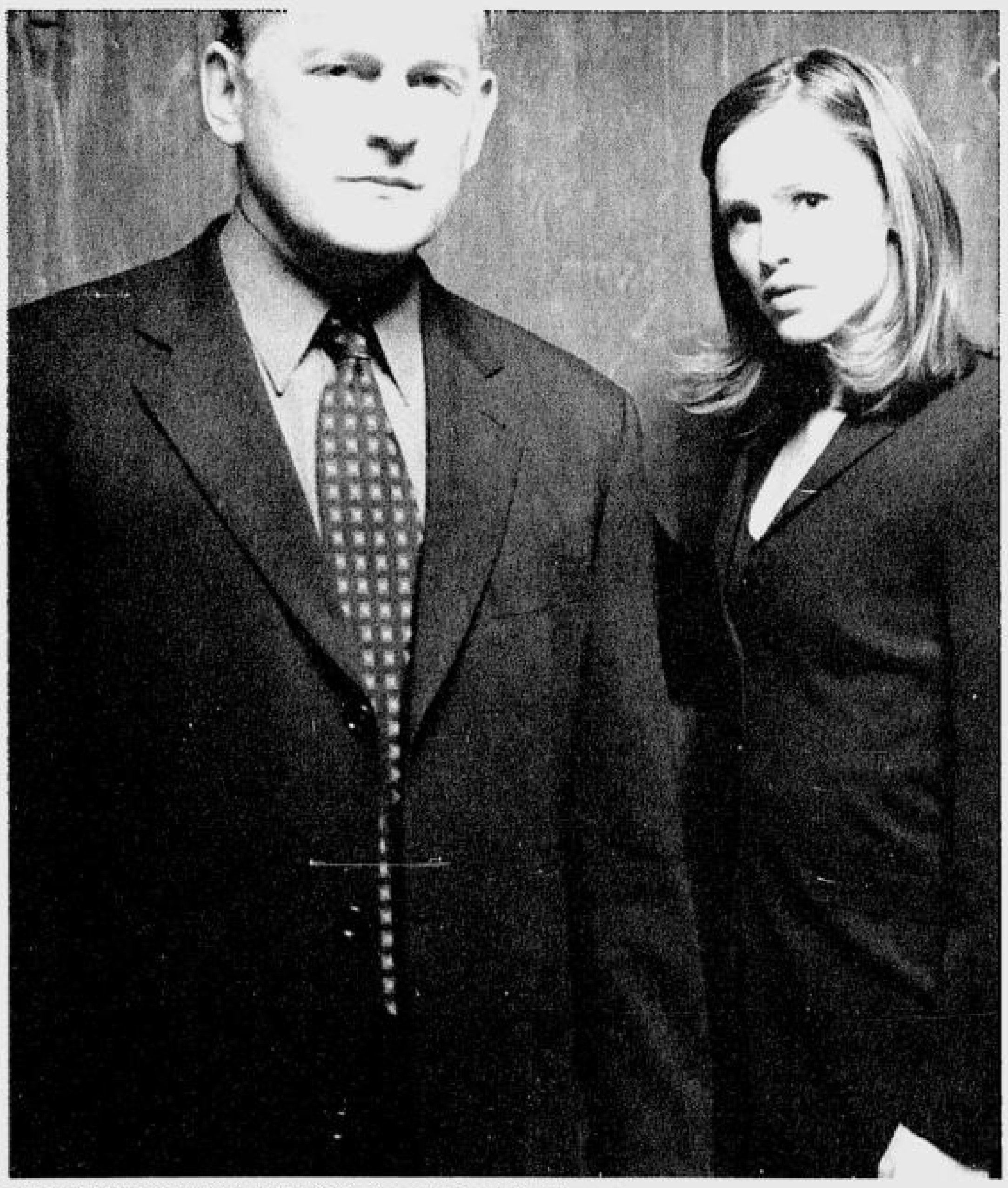
This setup will make it easier for the guilds to meet and work together to discuss and resolve issues regarding FAP.

The academy is now developing a new system that will remove inconsistencies and subjective interpretations of the awards. The new mechanism will make all movies produced within the year eligible to compete for the FAP by giving them the opportunity to be viewed and reviewed.

FAP director general Leo Martinez has coordinated with Asian Institute of Management Professor Cecile N. Manikan, director of Asian Institute of Management's Managing the Arts Program, to handle a workshop that will educate academy members on the process of selecting awardees.

The AIM assistance is free, part of a long-term arrangement between FAP and AIM, represented by

Victor Garber ‘



GARBER AND GARNER. With "Alias" co-star Jennifer Garner

By Joyce C. Abaño

SPIES and espionage series have always been intriguing and appealing, whether on television, in books or in the movies. The success of "Alias" therefore is no surprise.

"Alias" stars Golden Globe winner Jennifer Garner as double agent Sydney Bristow, together with Michael Vartan, Ron Rifkin, Lena Olin, and film, stage and TV actor Victor Garber, who plays Jack Bristow, Sydney's double-agent dad.

On its second season in Asia (third season in the United States), the fast-paced series amassed an impressive 11 nominations in the 2003 Emmy Awards. It hasn't exactly captured "CSI"-style ratings yet, but it is one of the few new shows to have found a firm audience. There's little doubt that the new season has been highly anticipated in Asia.

Why has "Alias" kept viewers enthralled?

According to Garber, the secret to keeping the audience interested in the espionage and the double-cross is keeping everything grounded in reality.

"You have to find something there that relates to the characters and reality on some level," Garber said in a teleconference hosted by AXN Asia.

Things in common

Those who know Garber only as the emotionally isolated, detached and serious spy/father on this ABC series are in for a surprise. In a teleconference, he talked about his enigmatic character and how much, or how little, they have in common.

"I'm very serious about acting," said Garber, 54, whose "Alias" role earned him an Emmy nomination for outstanding supporting actor, "and Jack Bristow is serious about what he does and I think we're very similar in that way."

They both also have a sense of humor.

"I hope you can tell from talking to me that I'm not always so serious," said Garber. "If you were to come and visit us and hang out on the set of 'Alias,' you will be shocked to see how silly we all are. I mean silly."

Jack Bristow has a sense of humor?

"Yes," said the actor who plays Bristow, "I think he does have one and I think there are little hints every now and then that he has one, and hopefully there'll be more. Otherwise, I couldn't play him. Actually, I'm working on a scene right now for the third season where he does actually make an ironic joke with Michael Vaughn on the plane and I'm so happy to see that."

More fun

As the seemingly distant agent and father on "Alias," Garber makes the family drama as tense and gut wrenching as the espionage part. He is playing a character even he doesn't know the truth about, and he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I find it exhilarating to pick up the script on my front porch and read it for the first time and see what the story is all about," he said. "I find out more about Jack every week. Essentially, I'm the same character, but I'm having more fun this season because I'm doing more aliases, you know. I like the surprise of not knowing."

Torture and killing

Was he prepared for the very physical role when he signed up?

"No," he admitted. "First season, I was behind a desk a lot. I kept saying I couldn't do any fight scenes, but then I did one and they said, 'Oh, it looks good,' and because I did it well enough, they've given me more. That's my downfall.

"I don't do any training, though, but I do go to the gym to stay healthy and fit. I don't know how far you are in the second season, but we're in our third season here (US) and last night, we did a scene where I've been inside a trunk [of a car] for three days, in a black sort of a jumpsuit and in a vest with guns and ammunition attached to me. That's been a nice change.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

found the Russel Crowe starrer a magnificently

dress, system

Manikan, professors Rene Domingo and Gaston Ortigas Jr. and Frances Blanco.

An agreement was reached to develop a new system with a committee of representatives from different production sectors of the film industry. This approach will ensure transparency, and feasibility of application in selecting awards.

The first two workshops yielded a draft of the selection system to be used in the 2004 awards rites. The proposed system provides that winners will be chosen by three bodies: citers, nominators and voters.

Citers are representatives of the eight professions (direction, screenplay, cinematography, production design, editing, music/score, sound and performance) who will review all movies produced within the year and to cite through a ratings method the top-rating movies in their category.

Nominators is a smaller body with a representation of five per profession who should be nominees for industry awards. Voters are members of the electoral college of the different guilds who will view all movies submitted to the nominators and cast their votes through a simple voting process.

Mariah still hot despite meltdown

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

SHE sang most of her hits in a show that lasted only a little over an hour. She wore half a dozen eye-popping outfits, dancing and belting those famous high notes that thrilled the crowd of more than 30,000.

In her first-ever performance in Manila two Sunday nights ago at The Fort Open Field, Mariah Carey was a blast. The effects of her much-publicized career and personal meltdown two years ago hardly ever showed in her energetic performance that night. She was warm and full of life as she showed off her magnificent five-octave voice to everyone's delight. The 33-year-old diva had apparently fixed the glitches in her aesthetic life.

The fans waited for nearly two hours for Mariah to come out on stage, and the waiting was eased by the performance of the all-male a capella group, Akafellas, which sang at least six well-applauded numbers.

When Mariah's live voice was finally heard and she emerged, ushered by burly bodyguards from the ground to the stage, the fans stood on their seats to get a glimpse of her. They screamed as she dished out her bouncy opening salvo, "Heartbreaker," and she was stunning in a glitzy powder blue micro-mini and bikini top.

She segued into another lively number, "Dreamlover," before greeting her ecstatic Manila audience. Then she did the vocally challenging "Through the Rain," the first hit single from her ninth and latest album, "Charmbracelet."

Mariah's Manila performance was part of the six-city Asian leg of her "Charmbracelet World Tour 2003" which promoted her newest album of the same title. She earlier performed in Bangkok, Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei and Kuala Lumpur.

Shorts and minis

After only three numbers, Mariah left the stage to change into an olive green gown with a plunging neckline. She had a total of seven wardrobe changes during the night. She donned a royal blue floral mini skirt with slits on both sides, and many girls in the audience speculated the skirt left no room for her to wear undies. When she did a choreographed number in "I Know What You Want" with her back-up dancers, she was in a denim micro-mini and a black tube shirt with "Harley Davidson" emblazoned on the chest.

She wore a "new" backless black dress and asked the audience, "Do you like the ensemble?" Her "Automatic Princess" get-up was a blue midriff shirt and neon pink shorts. For her last three numbers, she was in a dramatic silver gown adorned with ostrich feathers on the long skirt.

Thanks to the huge giant screens on both sides of the stage, even fans in the general admission area could clearly see her and her outfits while she performed.

Before every song, Mariah graciously told the audience the title of the piece and from what album it came from. Her spiels obviously were not scripted or rehearsed. No tele-prompters were visible. This singer hardly talked, so her one-liners elicited shrieks from her adoring fans.

REVIEW

CAREY up again and back with a vengeance, at least to her Filipino fans
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Stirring number

If there was still any emotional baggage from her breakup with superstar Luis Miguel, her hospitalization for exhaustion, her reported suicide attempt and the death of her father, Mariah hardly showed it. She knew how to entertain. And entertain very well.

She also sang the ballad "My All," as well as the upbeat "Honey," "Can't Take That Away," "You'll Always Be My Baby" and "Make It Happen." She danced in five-inch heels which showed her shapely legs.

She again displayed lung power when she sang the gospel-inspired "My Saving Grace," also from "Charmbracelet." The inspirational song with beautiful and poignant lyrics was written for Mariah after her meltdown. What made the number even more stirring were the newspaper clippings documenting her successful comeback that were flashed on the big screens, interspersed with video footage of her well-received performances the past year.

Mariah had a back-up that included her five-man band, three singers and half-a-dozen dancers. She surprised the crowd when ' she introduced Trey Lorenz from her back-up as "the big and nasty guy from the land of the fish sandwich, South Carolina." Trey, as most Mariah Carey fans know, had recorded with her the revival of the Jackson Five hit, "I'll Be There."

The versatile Trey had his own spot number, "Friend of Mine," which he sang with two female back-up singers.

When Mariah returned on stage, she did her final three numbers—"Vision of Love," "Without You" and "Hero." She exited while still singing a few lines from "Butterfly," which was rendered by her back-up singers.

The whole show was a good production, but the limited repertoire was rather disappointing. Mariah didn't sing her other hits like "Never Too Far," "Against All Odds," "Love Takes Time,"

MARIAH/A30

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Alias' Jack Bristow: Good guy, bad guy

I like to torture and kill," he ied, laughing.

Garber is also an actor on stage well as in movies and TV. What ctly attracted him to "Alias?"

"When I first read the script, I ught it was one of the best-writ- scripts I had read," he shared. erything I have ever done I did ause I'm interested in the writ- . The first thing I read was ere my character was on the ne talking to her [Sydney Bris- 's] fiancé. It's just a short ne, but I thought that it was so utifully written and it made me gh. I kept thinking that if I had lo a character for a long time, would be the character to do."

le compared "Alias" with other shows in the US. "'Alias' is very sodic. In our show you have to attention and know what hap- ied before. I think it's very intel- nt entertainment. It makes de- nds of viewers that a lot of ws don't."

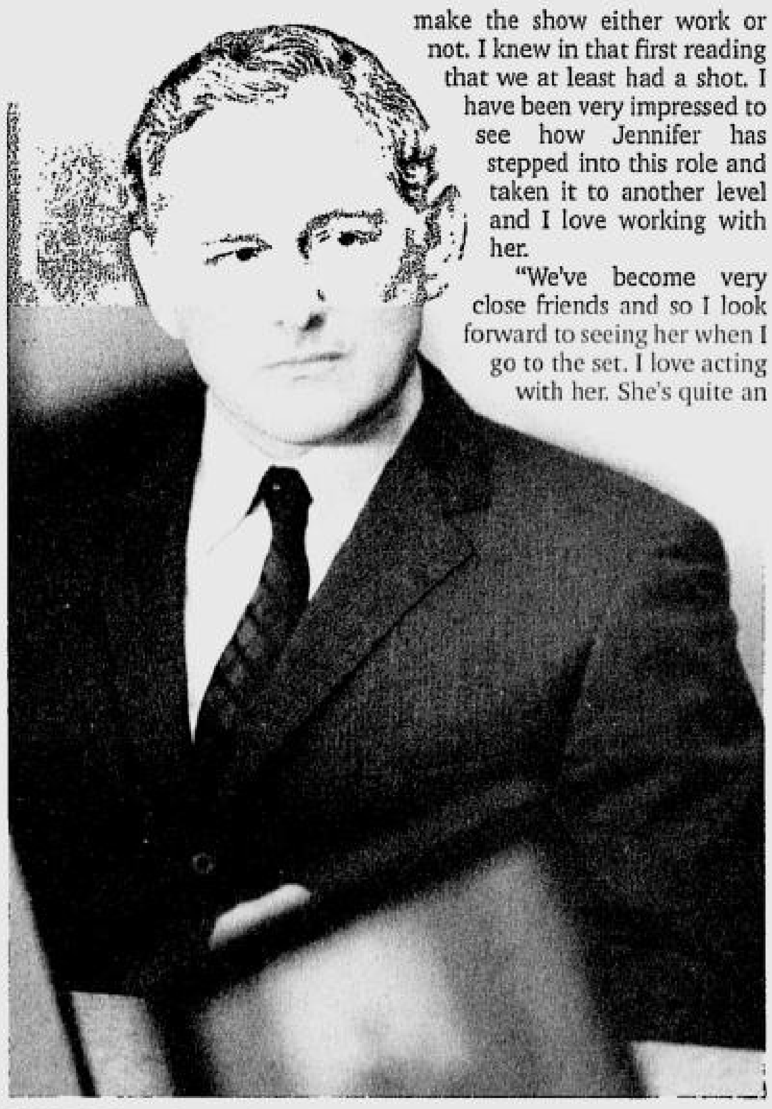
rking with Jennifer

le thinks the greatest appeal of show is Jennifer Garner.

"I remember the first reading of script we had and everybody sitting around the table. I was y impressed with the level of ing that was in the room, partic- rly with Jennifer who has so ch responsibility.

I thought when I first read the pt, whoever plays this role will make the show either work or not. I knew in that first reading that we at least had a shot. I have been very impressed to see how Jennifer has stepped into this role and taken it to another level and I love working with her.

"We've become very close friends and so I look forward to seeing her when I go to the set. I love acting with her. She's quite an extraordinary person and I feel very blessed because, you know, we could have ended up working with a real diva, someone who could've been really difficult to work with. Jennifer is the most generous, kind, thoughtful human being I've ever met. I feel very very fortunate."



GARBER likes the surprise of not knowing

Garber himself, however, says he is surprised at the show's critical and commercial success.

"I've been amazed that it's so popular with people. But it's been fantastic. People are very excited when I walk into a place and they recognize me from the series. People are very vocal about 'Alias.' They feel very strongly about the show.

"The people who watch it are fans and I find that wherever I go, some would say 'it's my favorite show on TV,' 'I never miss it,' and 'it's the only show we watch.' I mean I get that a lot, so I think that's always a good sign. You know ... they don't throw things at me."

Protective instinct

The second season of "Alias" focuses more on the family. Garber said that although he's not a father in real life, he doesn't approve of Jack's parenting.

"My theory about Jack is that he's not a very good parent," he observed, "but he's getting better. He has this sinister aspect in him, his detachment and his ability to cut off from his feelings. I think everything he does, though, is an attempt to protect her. Sometimes, his methods and his motives are questionable and even his morals are questionable in the way he does things. But I think his intention is always to protect his daughter."

How is his relationship with the rest of the cast and crew of "Alias?"

"It's kind of amazing," he exclaimed. "We are very close ... I know you hear people say that all the time, but I've actually seen it. We are very close. The crew loves working on the show, even though we have to work really hard. There's nobody in the show that's difficult. We really have a great group. We, some cast members and I, even went on a weekend trip together and spent the weekend at an inn, because we enjoy each other's company so much, and it was so cool."

Meryl Streep dream

Asked what he prefers to do—theater, movies or TV—Garber said, "I love doing all of them. I love the variation. For a long time I just did theater and after many years I was ready to make a change. Thank goodness I started getting movie roles and then television shows came along. So I was very fortunate to be able to do all three and I like all of them."

He was in the movies "Legally Blonde" and "Titanic," and was supposed to do "Fiddler on the Roof" last summer as a musical for TV but this was cancelled.

"I wouldn't have minded trying that," he said. "I thought it would've been a fun role to attempt. We may do it next summer, though, on a break. At the moment, there's nothing I have planned. I'm so focused on doing 'Alias,' hopefully for another couple of years."

He would love to work with Meryl Streep some day.

"Although I do know her and I like her personally, we've never worked together and I would love to work with her," he said, adding, "She's one of the greatest actresses of our time."

Garber let it slip that at the end of the second season, there's a wonderful cliffhanger, on which he didn't elaborate. And then the third season starts trying to sort out what happened.

"I think, now, they're making it clearer who are the good guys and who are the bad guys," he said. "I'm not sure how successful they've been because it's still hard to follow for some people and I think that's what makes it interesting."

"Alias" has introduced Victor Garber to a wider audience, and has finally brought him from being the actor mostly identified as "Hey, it's that guy," to major stardom.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GMA 7 to pursue damage suit vs ABS, cable firms

GMA 7 has elevated to the Supreme Court its case against ABS-CBN and several cable television companies for unfair competition and/or unfair trade practices after a Quezon City Regional Trial Court dismissed the case.

GMA 7 counsel Gener E. Asuncion said in a statement that the dismissal was not based on the merits of the case.

He said the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) had earlier found SkyCable to have committed unauthorized rechanneling of GMA 7's cable TV position. The NTC had ordered the return of the channel to its original position while the case of signal distortion was being heard.

The court ruled that the NTC has primary jurisdiction over the case because of the prior pending case filed by GMA 7 against ABS-CBN, Central CATV Inc., Home Cable Inc. and Pilipino Cable for signal distortion and rechanneling.

Lawyer Asuncion disputed the court's ruling, which said GMA 7 has no cause of action against ABS-CBN since GMA 7 is seeking redress against the cable TV companies for rechanneling its cable transmission and signal interference.

Asuncion said the court had glossed over the basic cause of action of "corporate combinations, machinations and devices of ABS-CBN and the cable TV companies in conspiracy by which they committed unfair competition and/or unfair trade practices."

Central CATV or SkyCable is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sky Vision which is owned by Lopez Inc., the controlling owner of ABS-CBN.

Sky Vision directly owns the majority shares in SkyCable and in Pilipino Cable.

SkyCable controls the Metro Manila operations, while Pilipino Cable, using the trade name "Sun Cable," controls the regional and provincial operations.

Sky Vision controls the business operations of Home Cable under a master consolidation agreement signed by the Lopez group and the PLDT group.

As a result, SkyCable, Home Cable and Pilipino Cable, along with ABS-CBN, now control 71 percent of the total TV market in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Because of their "corporate combinations, machinations and interlocking ownership, the cable companies control and dictate the signal transmission, channel position and the telecast of free TV of non-cable companies like GMA 7," said the GMA 7 statement.

"In the pursuit of their corporate combinations, the cable TV companies give first and preferential telecast to their affiliate non-cable TV ABS-CBN," the statement added.

"They unilaterally rechanneled the cable TV channel position of GMA from Channel 12 to 14 and caused disruption of GMA 7 free TV shows and telecasts," the statement said.

"The cable TV companies also failed to transmit the signal of GMA 7 resulting in distortion, degradations and disorder of GMA 7 shows on the cable TV channel," it continued.

It said this adversely affected the viewership, program quality and ratings of GMA 7, which also received numerous complaints from the viewers and advertisers.

UP Singing Ambassadors do Martin, Gary, 'Mr. Suave'

THE UP Singing Ambassadors celebrate its 23rd anniversary with a series of concerts entitled "UPSAri-sari@23."

The series is a welcome respite from the group's usual repertoire of classical songs and international competition pieces. It features songs from the '50s to the present, including Billy Joel's "For the Longest Time," Lara Fabian's "Broken Vow," Manhattan Transfer's "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square," Eraserhead's "Huling El Bimbo," Martin Nievera's "Kahit Isang Saglit" and "Galawgaw" from the Nida Blanca movie in the '50s, among others.

It will also showcase a Michel Legrand medley and an "Annie Batungbakal/Bongga Ka 'Day" medley.

For some of the shows, the group will do choral arrangements of Parokya Ni Edgar's "Mr. Suave," the hilarious "This Guy's in Love With You, Pare," Gary Valenciano and Piolo Pascual's "Kailangan Kita" and Bituin Escalante's "Kung Ako Na Lang Sana."

The last show of the "UPSAri-sari@23" is today, Nov. 26, 7 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo (CPR) Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati. For more information, call 924-9378.

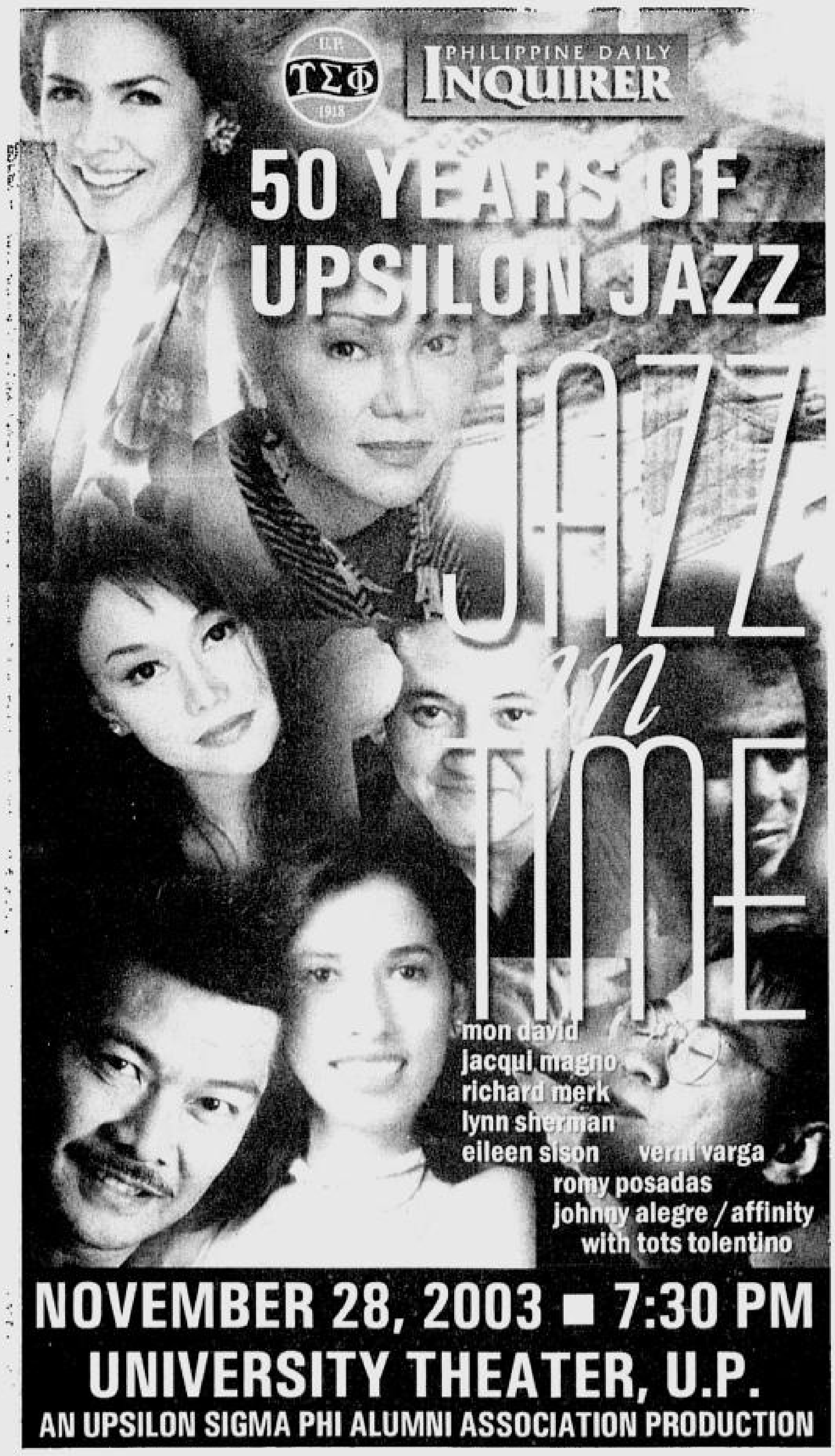
The shows are sponsored by GSIS, UP OICA, Pag-ibig, Unilever, CPR Auditorium and Ms Imelda Cojuangco. The project is for the benefit of the UPSA Outreach Program. Choreography is by Van Manalo while Ed Manguiat conducts.

"UPSAri-sari@23" will also have the UP Singing Ambassadors doing medleys of Legrand and Hotdog.

DID YOU KNOW...

While malling at Alabang Town Center two Sunday afternoons ago, ABS-CBN's Dong Puno Jr. was stopped by a small group in front of TGI Fridays, and the group requested for a souvenir photo with him.

THE COUNTRY's hottest new band Dimsum performs Friday nights at Chaquico's, packing up the place with its spruced-up rendition of classic R&B tunes by soul icons like Stevie Wonder, Mary J. Blige and Janet Jackson. Dimsum is currently finishing its first single entitled "TY4URLV," written and produced by award-winning songwriter Dennis Garcia. Chaquico's is located on Makati Avenue corner Jupiter Street.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Sharon scared to leave home

From page A32

daughter of former Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta.

"I know this from my father's experience. I saw my Dad through all the pain . . . of having people he trusted run out on him. So I know politics can be dirty, and I've made it clear from the start that I don't like politics."

It breaks Sharon's heart to see her husband's frustration over his work. And she shares this frustration.

If Sharon had her way, she would just as easily pick up and go and "earn a living . . . me making movies and he (Francis) doing something else."

"But I have to hand it to my husband," Sharon said. "He explained to me that someone has got to do the dirty job. He told me that you can't just keep complaining because nothing will happen to you. You can't just watch the country go to the dogs, he told me.

"That's why I share his frustrations because he's very decent, he got a very good heart, and he's totally honest.

"It hurts me, but because I love him and believe in what he believes in, I would be there to support him."

But being future first lady of the country is not in Sharon's agenda.

"As God is my witness, I do not entertain the thought," said Sharon. "I am very happy with what I am today."

What she is today is one of the film industry's highest paid actresses and product endorsers. But for her role as the street smart Stella in the film "Crying Ladies," Sharon gave producer Tony Gloria "very friendly terms" on her talent fee.

"It was really no big deal to me," said Sharon. "I loved the project when it was presented to me. I fell in love with the script, and I knew I would be in good hands because of Mr. Gloria."

Produced by Gloria's Unitel Pictures as its Metro Manila Film Festival entry this year, "Crying Ladies" is based on a Palanca award-winning screenplay by veteran commercial director Mark Meily about three women who are professional mourners in Chinatown. They are paid to cry in Chinese funerals and burials by relatives of the deceased.

The movie is Meily's first feature film, but this is not the first time he has worked with Sharon.

"He directed me in two television commercials already," said Sharon. "One for Coke, and the other for Selecta. When you work in a commercial, everything has to be down pat before the shoot commences. And Mark knew exactly what he was doing. I knew he was going to give it his best shot. He had all his moves covered."

The movie is also a different take for Sharon, who has done a gamut of roles that explored the human condition.

"Stella (one of the three crying ladies) is a different role for me," she said. "I know how actors say that all the time, but I know that this is something different from everything else I have done.

"The role is really off-beat. I cursed in the movie, gambled, was jailed for estafa. I did everything just to survive and to get my son back .

"But I don't think my role would be *nakakainis* to the audience," she added. "It was treated lightly, as a comedy. I think that Stella is actually endearing."

"With the role, I'd like to believe that I've raised the bar of my acting. I'm speaking for myself, and I'm speaking as an actress. I think I've done that (raise the bar), and that's really a nice thought."

But Sharon yesterday was thinking of Frankie, her daughter with Francis, rather than any movie role. Since Monday night, Frankie, 3, has been running a high fever because of a viral infection, according to Sharon.

"You know, she's just a baby," said Sharon, the mother. "I want to be by her side."

Mariah still hot despite . . .

From page A28

"One Sweet Day" (she had back-up singers who could have sang the part of Boyz II Men) and "When You Believe," the theme from the animated film, "Prince of Egypt."

130 million

Local stars were in audience. After all, Mariah was perhaps the first big international major act to perform in Manila after Michael Jackson and Sting. The stars included couples Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales, Ariel Rivera and Gelli de Belen, Dingdong Avanzado and Jessa Zaragoza, David Bunevacz and Jessica Rodriguez, Ronnie and Ida Henares.

Also coosome were pairs Chynna Ortaleza and Railey Valeroso of GMA 7's youth show, "Click," Jericho Rosales and Cindy Kurleto, John Lloyd Cruz and Ciara Sotto. Willie Revillame, Aiko Melendez, Gabby Eigenmann and TJ Manotoc were also watching.

Mariah was one of the world's top recording artists throughout the '90s, with 15 No. 1 hits to her name and more than 130 million copies of her albums sold across the globe. She is the third best selling female singer after Barbra Streisand and Madonna.

For her Manila performance, Mariah required a van to haul 50 pieces of her wardrobe luggage from the airport to the hotel, and back. In her hotel room, there were specified brands of wine, Diet Coke in the refrigerator and chewing gum (also in the stretched limousine), pink throw pillows, an exercise bike and black shades on the windows.

Mariah may still be in the process of reviving her career after her meltdown. But judging from the success of her current world tour, the pop diva is definitely back with a vengeance.

Getting out of the beauty box

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER **Lucy Torres**, **Dawn Zulueta** and **Mikee Cojuangco**, it's **Miriam Quiambao's** turn to host Channel 7's weekly magazine show, "All About You" (Sundays, 11 a.m.). We caught Miriam's first episode last Nov. 16, and we're impressed with its extra-beautiful aura, thanks to the presence of a number of former beauty queens.

Being a beauty titlist herself, Miriam knew the right questions to ask, and how to showcase her guests at their best.

Unfortunately, the good vibes didn't last very long. It soon became apparent that both host ad guests were going to be limited to a standard attitude and approach, saying the right things, exchanging the usual pleasantries and inspiring thoughts about life, etc.

For instance, we lost count of the number of times that the tired cliché, "True beauty comes from within," was reported during the program. The statement is valid and insightful, but when articulated over and over in such a facile fashion—oh, please.

The show should really go beyond such predictable patter, and surprise viewers with unexpected takes on life, rather than being satisfied with confirming what most people already know.

The show should go beyond predictable patter

For her part, Miriam needs to remind herself that hosting a magazine show entails more than just articulating the standard niceties, and making your guests look good. Shows should be put on for the benefit of its viewers, first and foremost, and televiewers today need more enterprise, excitement and substance in what they watch on the tube.

From last Sunday's telecast, viewers did learn that beauty shouldn't be its own cause for being, and that former beauty queens can put up their own businesses and develop their less ephemeral attributes. But these insights were upstaged by the predictable patter.

On the production side, the program was completely studio-based, an unenterprising, sit-down affair that pretty much chose not to take advantage of the other things that TV can do these days, like providing a more dynamic view of the guests' businesses and other activities in their homes and work places.

Sure, the TV set is a box, but TV people shouldn't be boxed in by minimal goals and expectations. They owe it to their viewers to give them video inputs that are vital and provocative, rather than platitudes that merely confirm what people already know, and are already bored with.

'Blue Planet: Seas of Life'

Five years in the making, "Blue Planet: Seas of Life" is being telecast Fridays at 11 p.m. on Animal Planet. The series reveals the mysteries of the water world. After more than 150 film trips to 200 locations on all seven continents, "Blue Planet" has expanded the boundaries of science with its unprecedented exploration of our planet's oceans.

'Brother Bear'

Walt Disney Pictures' "Brother Bear" is a new animated tale of brotherhood and breathtaking outdoor adventure. Driven by six new songs by **Phil Collins** (including "Great Spirits," sung by **Tina Turner**), the cartoon feature follows the amazing adventures of a young man named Kenai, who is transformed into a bear.

From his new perspective, Kenai discovers the world through different eyes, as he is befriended by a bear cub named Coda, has a hilarious encounter with a pair of misguided moose, and is pursued by his own sibling!

'Hitback'

Retro fever intensifies as yesterday's hitmakers take centerstage at Music Museum in "Hitback" at 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 5.

Musical performers include Hotdog, Boyfriends, RJ and Friends led by **Ramon Jacinto**, and the Hitmakers, four composers who, for the first time, will sing their biggest hits. (The composers are **Vehnee Saturno**, **Mon del Rosario**, **Nonoy Tan** and **Alex Catedrilla**.)

Willie Nepomuceno's "different personalities" will host the musical retro show.

Feedback

From **Bingo Guerrero**, who says he's "the president (on leave) of the Elvis Presley Club International Philippines": "Thanks for the nice tribute to Elvis (Nov. 15), but I would like to make some corrections: He is not the Eminem of our time, he is the artist for all times.

"Also, he is not a rock star, as the term rock is more or less associated with heavy metal stuff. He was and still is the King of Rock 'n' Roll. Rock 'n' roll and not rock is the appropriate term.

"As for Ed Sullivan, Elvis certainly made him sweat, but his appearance on Sullivan's show paid off in large dividends for the TV host: His show zoomed high up on the ratings chart.

"Summing up, Elvis is the musical artist of the century! I hope you can feature him again."

Boom na Boom reinvented

SHOW TIME

VISITORS to this year's Boom na Boom, which will open its 2003 season on Saturday, Nov. 29, will be surprised to find the sprawling carnival complex transformed into a mixed-use entertainment, dining and shopping area.

The 11-hectare complex along Roxas Boulevard, which used to be occupied entirely by the landmark Boom na Boom carnival, now boasts of new locators like the Marina dining and entertainment complex, Pier One Bar and Grill, Boom Camp paintball field and adventure zone, among others.

The carnival, now called the Boomland amusement park, will still be around to provide visitors good, clean fun and excitement.

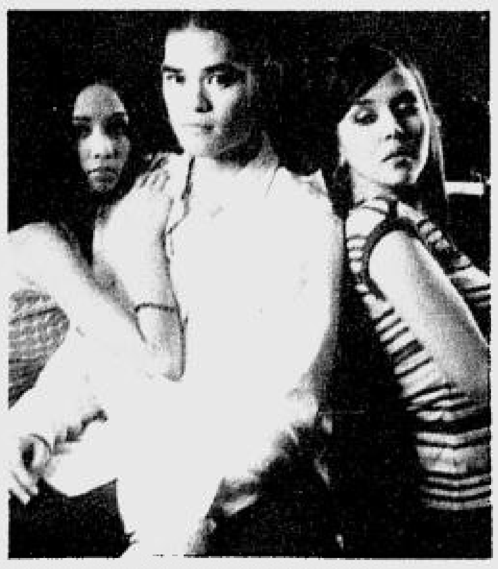
Some of the corporate sponsors for this year's Boomland include Purefoods Hotdogs and Aqua Soft purified drinking water.

Boomland will also open its 2003 Christmas season on Nov. 29 with entertainment, food and snack bars, shopping stalls and, of course, the thrilling rides and attractions.

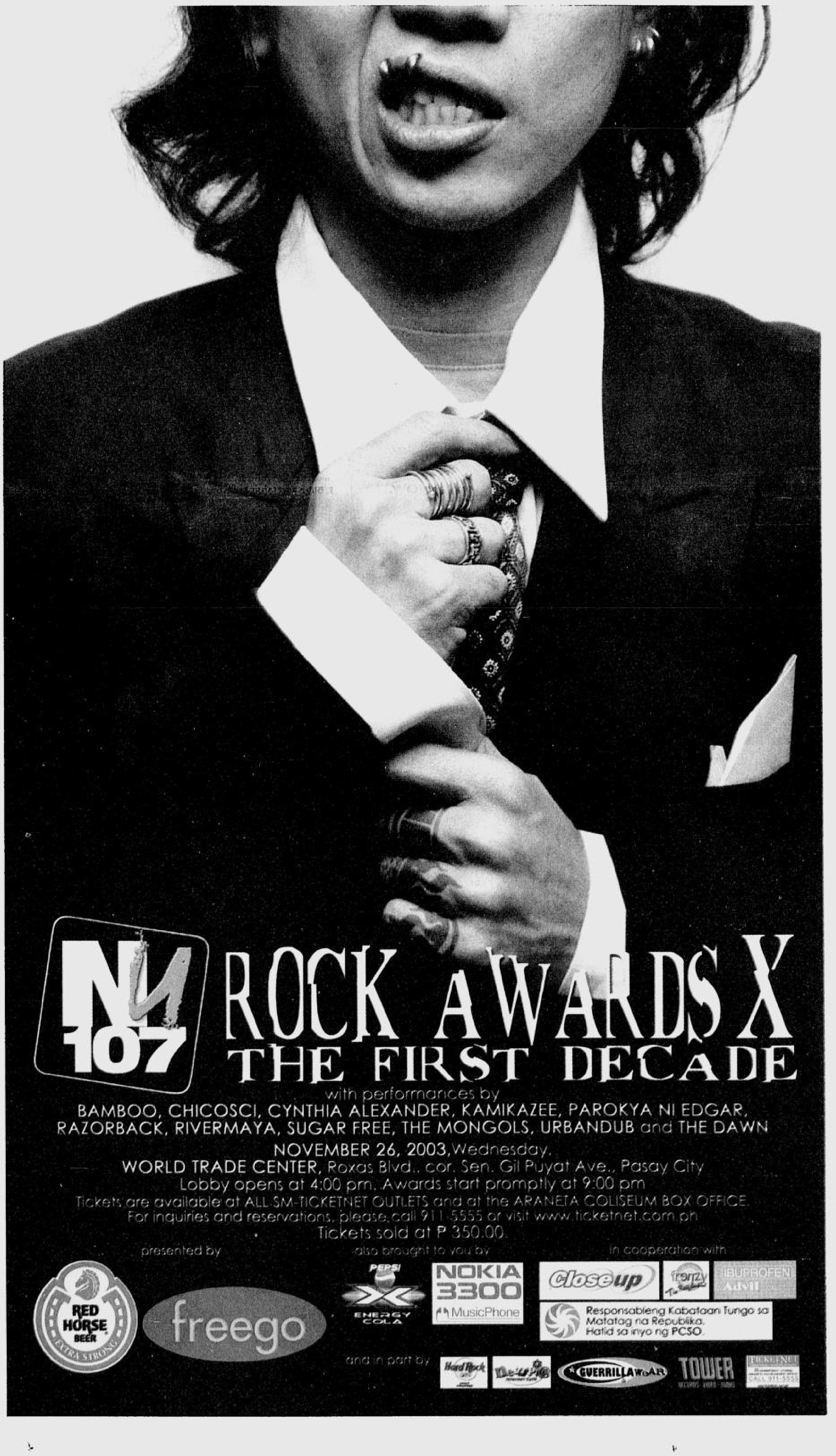
Prospective locators can still reserve spaces. Call 832-5401 or 832-5422.

Haydee M. Kwan, Boom na Boom director general, said Boom na Boom's strategic location and ample parking spaces make it an ideal mixed-use complex that caters to families looking for an alternative dining and entertainment hub.

Standing at the intersection of Roxas Boulevard and Gil Puyat (Buendia) Avenue in Pasay City just off scenic Manila Bay, Boom na Boom provides lots of open spaces amid the city jungle. It is accessible from both the Malate and Makati districts.



PHILHARMONIC IN JEANS
Pop, rock, R&B and classical music come together during the gala night of "Philharmonic in Jeans: Rock 'n' Roll" on Thursday, Nov. 27, at 7:30 p.m., at the Glorietta main activity area at the Ayala Center in Makati City. Presented by Sony Ericsson and Guess, the annual event will feature diverse musical talents: the Akafellas, Anna Fegi, (above, from left) Najah, Jay-R and Arnee Hidalgo, Janno Gibbs, Jett Pangan, Lorna Llames, the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, Montserrat Singers, 604 and Whiplash. The repertoire includes Christmas songs and hits from Queen, Elvis Presley, Destiny's Child, Avril Lavigne, and Christina Aguilera. Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m. before the show. Sony Ericsson will demonstrate to guests its latest mobile phones, including the P900 smartphone, the Z200 and Z600 phones, and the T230. "Philharmonic in Jeans" is on its sixth year. This year's cast will also perform at SM Megamall on Dec. 5, Robinsons Ermita on Dec. 12, and Festival Mall on Dec. 19.



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Sharon scared to leave home

By Nini Valera

ACTRESS Sharon Cuneta is scared every time she leaves her house and goes to the streets.

"I pray every time I go out of the house," Sharon said in an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday.

"I don't feel safe when I go out on the streets. I always say a prayer for all the members of my family before we go out of the house."

The wife of Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Sharon, 37, also feels "it's a very bad time for my husband to be a senator."

"I know what I speak of," said the actress, who's no stranger to local politics, being the

SHARON/ A30

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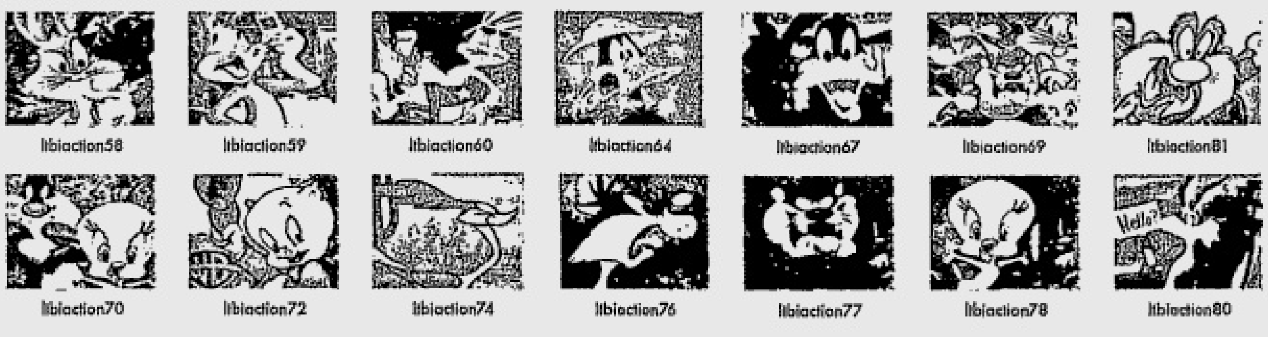

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TONES

TITLE	Ringtone	Polytone
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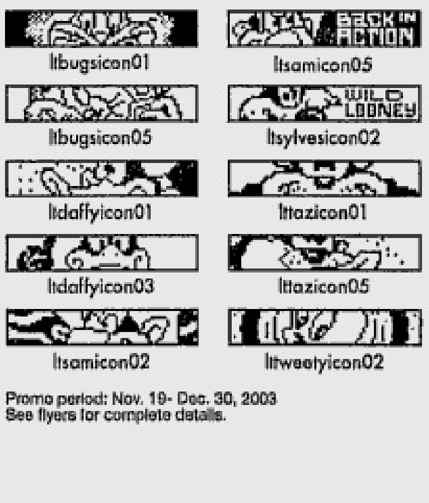
Shake Your Coconut	monococo	polycoco
Looney Tunes Theme	monolooney	polylooney

ICONS



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Manufacturing output down 3.7%

INDICATORS

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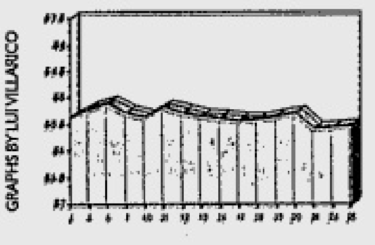

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As of 5 p.m., Nov. 25, 2003

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As of 5 p.m., Nov. 25, 2003

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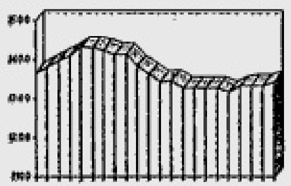
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 25, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end up, tempered by peso slide

SHARES closed moderately higher yesterday on bargain hunting in selected blue chips, but the climb was tempered by the peso's weakness and a rise in treasury bill rates on political jitters, traders said.

They added the market was likely to remain sluggish until all presidential hopefuls for next year's elections file their candidacy starting Dec. 15 and reveal their policies, particularly on business-related issues.

The Philippine stock index gained 9.78 points or 0.73 percent to end at 1,344.36 points, with the market up 32.01 percent so far this year despite a recent pull-back.

Phone firms Globe Telecom and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), seen by investors as sustaining a rise in profit on healthy mobile phone demand, led the market's climb.

"If you look at the issues investors are buying, these are issues that are cheap relative to next year's earnings," said Jose Vistan, analyst at AB Capital Securities Inc.

"Also, there's a technical rebound in several issues, but the buying has been tempered because of the spike in interest rates and the peso's fall."

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate climbed 27 basis points at a regular auction on Monday as the market priced in worries that Finance Secretary Jose Camacho's resignation by the end of the month might cause a budget deficit blowout.

The peso also fell dangerously close to its record low of 55.75 to the dollar on Monday, hitting 55.70 on Camacho's resignation and the possible presidential bid of movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., who has no political experience.

"There will be less aggressiveness on both the buying and selling side until candidates make known their policies," Vistan said.

Turnover widened to P618.62 million against P295.9 million on Monday. Gainers were in a near two-to-one majority. *Reuters*

By Doris C. Dumlao

PRODUCTION of the country's top 500 manufacturers fell by 3.7 percent in September from a year ago, reversing a two-month upturn, following the continued caution in the build-up of inventories for the local and foreign markets.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the volume of production index of these top manufacturers again contracted after posting a 4.7-percent growth in August.

The slowdown was brought by the lower production of leather products, tobacco, footwear and apparel, electrical machinery, fabricated metal products, nonmetallic mineral products, beverage and food.

Similarly, manufacturing sales for the month dropped by 1.5 percent year-on-year in volume terms from the 7.9 percent growth in August.

The average capacity utilization rate of the manufacturing sector also declined to 77.5 percent in September from 78.6 percent in August.

On a monthly basis, manufacturing output in volume terms in September dropped by 2.6 percent due to sharp declines in the production of leather products, tobacco, electrical machinery, paper and paper products and rubber products.

In value terms, manufacturing output rose slightly by 3.1 percent in September from a year ago, due to a 196.3-percent increase in basic metals as well as other sectors such as non-electrical machinery, textile, petroleum products, miscellaneous manufacturing, wood and wood products and chemical products.

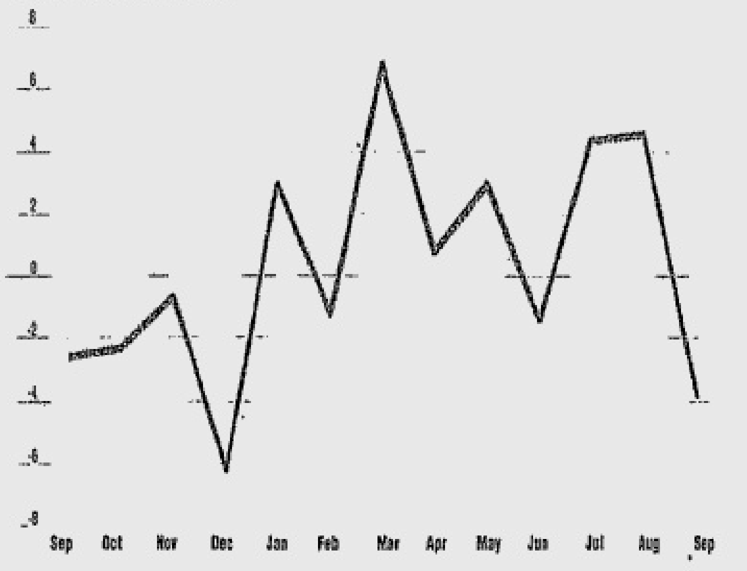
Manufacturing, which accounts for roughly two-thirds of the country's industrial output and a quarter of the gross domestic product, is highly dependent on export performance. This year, the country's main exports—electronics—have yet to benefit from the recovery in the global economy.

The output of the country's top manufacturers for September reflected the 4.5-percent decline in the country's import bill for the month. As the country's top exports have a high import content, the level of importation is an indicator of subsequent export performance.

Economists said that manufacturers did not want to get stuck with a lot of inventory because domestic demand remained weak despite the coming Christmas season and also because of domestic uncertainties.

Manufacturing output was likewise affected by the depreciation of the peso against the dollar, which made purchases of imported raw materials and intermediate goods more expensive.

YEAR-ON-GROWTH RATES in Manufacturing output
September 2002 to September 2003



Treasury rejects high bids for 2-year bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

A NERVOUS market continued to drive local interest rates up, prompting the Bureau of Treasury to reject all offers for two-year bonds yesterday that would have raised the government's cost of borrowing by 72 basis points.

Explaining the high bids, traders said the market was overwhelmed by political uncertainties that increased the risks of holding Philippine bonds.

Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa said the government would rather wait for the results of the sale of three-year retail treasury bonds starting tomorrow rather than borrow at an expensive rate. The Treasury is expecting to raise at least P30 billion from the sale of RTBs until Dec. 2.

The auction committee led by the Bureau of Treasury considered three rates before finally deciding to reject all bids. The rates considered were 9.353 percent, 9.276 percent, and 9.264 percent, which would have raised the cost of borrowing by 71 basis points, by 63.9 basis points, and by 62.7 basis points.

Two-year bonds last fetched an average rate of 8.637 percent on Oct. 28.

Offers of P4.49 billion were also not enough to convince the Treasury that there was sufficient demand for the debt paper.

"Everybody is telling us that the RTBs would be oversubscribed anyway," said Figueroa. The secondary market rate for two year bonds was at 9.2 percent.

The deputy treasurer said there was no justification for banks to continue bidding up the rates given a benign inflation outlook and a budget deficit that remained below the target in the first 10 months.

A trader pointed out that the weak peso was partly the reason for the higher bids.

Every time the peso is weak, banks ask the government to pay a higher return for their investments in sovereign bills in exchange for not using the funds to speculate in the foreign exchange

TREASURY/ B2

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22 PROJECTS WORTH $1.4B

WB praises RP for improved use of ODA funds

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE WORLD Bank has praised the Philippine government for stepping up the implementation of some 22 development projects worth $1.4 billion.

"The implementation of development projects accelerated dramatically in the last two years based on the dispersal of resources," said World Bank country director Robert Vance Pulley.

World Bank figures showed that government agencies have disbursed an average of 23 percent of the Official Development Assistance funds this year from 11 percent recorded last year.

Multilateral donors like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank charge the government with commitment fees on unused ODA funds.

Pulley added that the implementing agencies have reduced the timetable of ODA projects from an average of 10 years to only five years.

"This shows that Philippine implementing agencies and oversight agencies are really working very productively through most of the sectors and we saw results from the ground. We are pleased with this development," Pulley said.

The implementation of ODA projects has been delayed due to such factors as right-of-way court disputes.

World Bank data showed that the Department of Agrarian Reform had the best record among the implementing agencies with an ODA utilization rate of 78.6 percent.

Following closely are the Departments of Education, Social Welfare and Budget and Management.

On the other hand, the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had the lowest utilization rates.

The DENR used only 2.2 percent of available funds, World Bank figures showed.

The World Bank cited the lack of counterpart government funds as one of the factors that hampered the implementation of ODA-funded projects.

These projects include the Rural Finance III, Social Expenditure Management Project I, Transmission Grid Reinforcement Project, National Roads Improvement and Management Project and the Third Elementary Education Project.

"We remain concerned that the national government continues to be constrained by its budget deficit but it has to make development projects a priority because these have a huge impact on the progress of poverty alleviation (efforts) in the countryside," Pulley said.

The Philippines used to have the worst disbursement record among the nine countries assisted by the World Bank in East Asia.

Improvements in ODA utilization, however, have pulled the Philippines to No. 4 among the nine countries earlier this year.

Treasury rejects high bids . . .

From page B1

market.

A higher inflation and widening fiscal gap usually prompt the fixed-income market to ask for higher returns on placements in government securities in exchange for increasing risks.

But banks could not use this as excuse. Figueroa insisted that the government's cash position remained healthy, pointing to two successive foreign borrowings that generated $1.35 billion in proceeds.

Traders said the market was reacting adversely to a confluence of factors, including the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho last Friday and concerns that it would be followed by a wave of departures at the finance department. National Treasurer Sergio Edeza earlier said that he was staying only until the end of January 2004.

Camacho is highly regarded by the market for making progress on reining in the budget deficit while Edeza is respected for keeping treasury bill rates at low levels.

On Monday, the government accepted an average rate of 6.532 percent for the benchmark 91-day Treasury-bill rate from the previous 6.262 percent, while the 182-day bill jumped to 7.586 percent from 7.421 percent. It rejected all bids for one-year bills.

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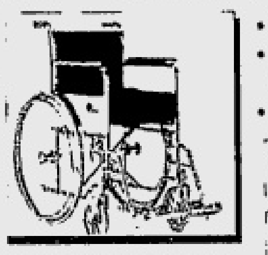

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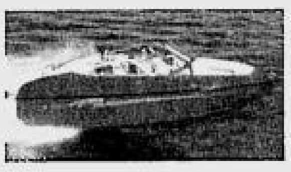
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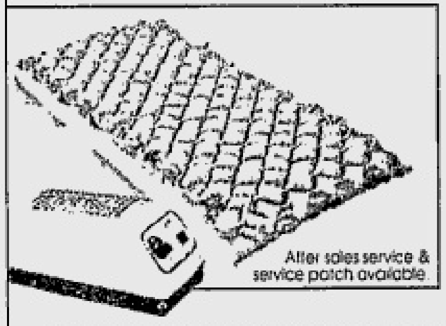
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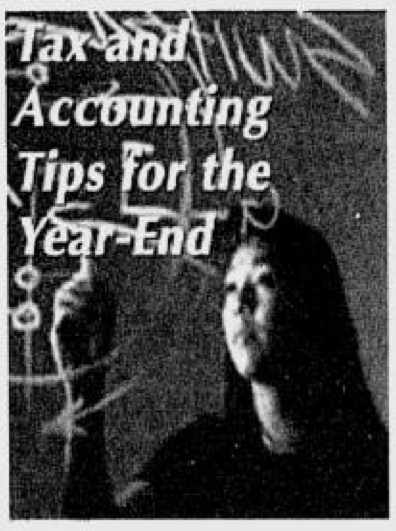
The year is about to end. It is important that you are able to put in place all the tax and accounting requirements to maximize tax savings, avoid penalties for noncompliance of accounting and tax rules, and to minimize the risk of unanticipated financial reporting outcomes.


Tax and Accounting Tips for the Year-End

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TAX COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR YEAR-END
by Atty. Antonio P. Bonilla
Tax Senior Associate, SGV & Co.

TAX PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR YEAR-END
by Mr. Joel L. Tan-Torres
Tax Partner, SGV & Co.

IMPACT ON YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NEW SFAS
by Mr. Gemilo J. San Pedro
Audit Partner, SGV & Co.

8:00 am - 12 nn
5 December 2003
Skytop
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Know the latest developments from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), as well as the various reports (and the respective revised formats) that you have to furnish the BIR before the year-end or at the beginning of next year. Also, learn of the available tax planning options that can save you money if you do these before year-end.

On the accounting side, the Accounting Standards Council has issued additional and new Statements of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) that took effect this year. More SFAS are expected next year. These SFAS will change the way the information in your financial statements are prepared and presented.

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Dollar loans down 4% at $4.93B in 2nd quarter

By Clarissa S. Batino

AS MORE borrowers stayed away from dollars given the peso's lingering weakness, lending from dollar deposit units of banks shrank 4 percent or by $221 million to $4.93 billion in the second quarter against the adjusted end-March level of $5.15 billion.

During the same period, the central bank said that dollar deposits stood at $13.24 billion, of which 96 percent was held by residents.

As the peso continued to lose ground against the dollar, Filipinos chose to keep their assets in dollars. As a result, loans-to-deposit ratio dropped to 37 percent from 40 percent in the first quarter.

By the third quarter, banks are expected to increase their dollar lending after the central bank availed itself of another $500-million loan mostly from the FCDUs. In March, the central bank also borrowed $500 million from banks' dollar deposit units.

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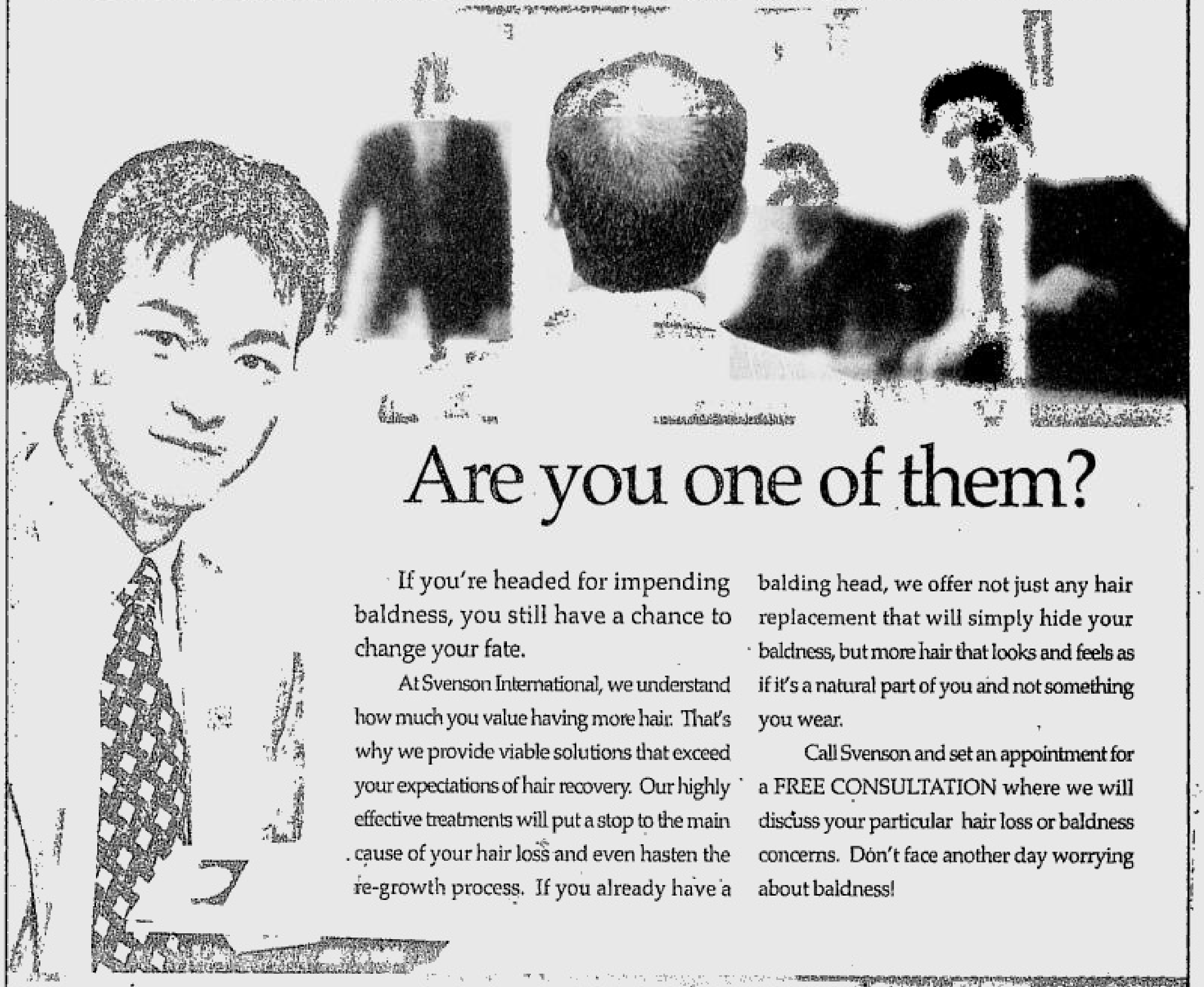

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Japanese firm urges DTI to lift safeguard duty

By Michelle V. Remo

SOUTHERN Cross Cement Corp. of Japan has urged the Department of Trade and Industry to lift the safeguard duty on imported cement saying that it gives local cement makers an undue advantage over their foreign counterparts.

Southern Cross said in a position paper submitted to the DTI that the safeguard duty of P20.60 per 40-kilogram bag was not justified and that local cement makers were only using it to dominate the market and increase their selling prices.

"These price distortions... have either harmed or threatened to harm the welfare of local consumers, the viability of the domestic construction industry and the livelihood of approximately 5 million workers employed in the downstream industries," Southern Cross said.

The DTI imposed the safeguard duty in June this year in response to claims made by the local cement manufacturers that the surge in cement imports has threatened their business.

The Japanese cement firm, however, denied that there was a surge in imports.

Southern Cross added that the difficulties faced by the local cement firms, such as the rise in the costs of raw materials, insurance, energy, and the depreciation of the peso, do not call for the imposition of the safeguard duty.

Southern Cross submitted the position paper after the DTI warned local cement makers that it would withdraw the safeguard duty following the recent increase in the prices of local cement from last year's average of P80 to the current P105 to P110 per 40-kilogram bag.

DTI Secretary Manuel Roxas II said earlier that the increase in the prices of local cement was questionable due to the low demand at this time of the year.

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ELECTION FEVER. (From left) Dante de Guzman, regional governor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, NCR, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., PCCI Pres., Sen. Ed Angara , Speaker Jose de Venecia, Miguel Varela raise their hands at the start of the 29th Philippine Business Conference Expo, at the Manila Hotel. ROGER MARGALLO

PAL losses jump in Q3 to P383.8M; blames drop in passenger travel

PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) reported on Tuesday a more than 10-fold rise in losses for the three months to September from a year ago, as declining passenger numbers knocked its revenues.

In a statement, the country's flag carrier and Asia's oldest airline said it posted a net loss for the quarter to September of P383.8 million $6.9 million), up from a loss of P37.3 million in the year-ago period.

July to September is the low season for travel in the Philippines.

The carrier has been hard hit by a fall in regional air travel this year in the wake of the war in Iraq and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic that swept through Asia in March and April.

In the April-to-June period, it posted a net loss of P707.6 million, mostly a result of SARS.

Travel advisories issued by several countries warning against visits to trouble-plagued parts of the country have also hurt airlines.

Earlier this year, PAL President Avelino Zapanta told Reuters the company was likely to post a small loss in its financial year to March 2004.

Operating revenues for the three months to September slumped 8.1 percent year-on-year as passenger numbers declined, although expenses for the same period dipped 2.4 percent, aided by lower charges for maintenance and aircraft and traffic servicing.

But fuel costs rose 13.1 percent from a year ago, largely due to an increase in crude oil prices.

PAL is controlled by local business tycoon Lucio Tan and his companies. *Reuters*

PSE set to take over operations of troubled Asian Capital

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission for the go-ahead to take over the operations of beleaguered brokerage firm Asian Capital Equities Inc., which was shut down last Nov. 18 on fraud charges.

This developed after ACE's management led by controversial stock broker Frank Borromeo failed to show up during Monday's hearing at the SEC, PSE president Ernest Leung told reporters yesterday.

The SEC scheduled the hearing to give ACE management the opportunity to oppose PSE's plan to take over its operations.

"Although we are an SRO (self-regulatory organization), our authority is derived from the SRC, so we need the takeover authority," Leung said.

The PSE has sought to take over ACE on grounds that it violated the Securities and Regulation Code, particularly provisions on financial safeguards and borrowing restrictions.

PSE records showed that the stock brokerage firm had a negative net worth of P65 million as of Sept. 30 last year.

It would have incurred a net capital deficiency of P73.56 million if not for its subordinated loan worth P77 million.

While subordinated loans, similar to the tier 2 capital of banks, are legitimate ways of boosting capital, Leung said the PSE was against heavy dependence on such sources of funding.

ACE was earlier forced to voluntary suspend its operations after it failed to come up with additional capital.

EMB shuts down small-scale gold mining firms in Paracale

LEGAZPI CITY—The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has shut down the operations of five small-scale mining firms in the Paracale gold reserve areas in Camarines Norte.

The EMB closed down the gold processing plants of Elybel Mineral Resources, Talia Small-Scale Mining Plant, De Fiana Small-Scale Mining Plant, Padrigon Gold Processing Plant and Pio Oco Small-Scale Mining Plant after studies showed that the effluents discharged by the gold processing plants exceeded the DENR limits for cyanide.

The monitoring study was conducted last Oct. 20 by the EMB, MGB and the Paracale task force.

The task force is composed of representatives from the local government unit, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, EMB and their two non-government organization partners, which are the Bantay Paracale and the Community-Based Resources Management Project.

Gilbert Gonzales, EMB Bicol regional manager, said the DENR ordered the closure of these firms due to the possible health and environment hazards.

The allowable effluent standard for cyanide waste is .05 milliliter per liter of surface water.

EMB samples, however, showed that the cyanide content in nearby streams and rivers exceeded this standard by over 200 percent.

The contamination was considered alarmingly high.

The EMB, however, has no records of deaths, or injuries, traced to cyanide poisoning.

A technical source at the EMB said cyanide is a highly lethal substance when directly ingested or inhaled, but loses its toxicity when exposed to direct sunlight.

Together with mercury, cyanide is indispensable in gold processing.

As a strictly regulated substance, a legitimate gold processor would need a chemical control order from the EMB before it could purchase cyanide from legal outlets.

DENR Bicol regional executive director Oscar Hamada has endorsed the case to the Pollution Adjudication Board for the issuance of a regular CDO to replace the interim CDO.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Q&A:

1. What are Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs)?

The Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs) are part of the government's savings mobilization program designed to make government securities available to retail investors. It is issued by the Republic of the Philippines through the Bureau of the Treasury. This issue of the RTBs will have a maturity of 3 years and an investor may purchase any tenor or a combination thereof. Interest or coupon payments will be paid quarterly compared to the regular Treasury Bonds which are paid semi-annually.

2. Why invest in RTBs?

The RTBs are designed to provide a safe, high-yielding and affordable savings instrument.

RTBs are safe. They are considered practically risk-free because they are direct, unconditional and general obligations of the Republic of the Philippines.

RTBs are high-yielding. Interest rates are superior to typical time deposit rates.

RTBs are affordable. The minimum denomination is only P5,000 and in multiples of P5,000 thereafter.

3. Who can purchase the RTBs?

The *RTBs* aim to cater to retail investors such as individuals, and corporations who are looking for a safe, affordable and high-yielding investment for their savings. In addition, the *RTBs* will also be available for purchase by financial and other institutional investors.

4. Where and when can an investor purchase RTBs?

The *RTBs* will be sold to the public during the Public Offering (PO) which will be announced in major dailies.

The Public Offering is the opportunity given to retail investors to subscribe to the RTBs through LANDBANK and DBP and the accredited Underwriters and Selling Agents.

The terms and conditions applicable to the RTBs as well as copies of the complete documentation will be made available during the Public Offering by each Underwriter and Selling Agent.

5. How does an investor participate in the PO?

Investors may purchase the bonds over the counter from the Underwriter or Selling Agent nearest them, subject to the minimum deposit requirements of each Underwriter and Selling Agent.

They will be required to open a peso deposit account or designate an existing peso account where interest payment and principal redemption of the *RTBs* will be credited.

For corporations, copies of the Board Resolutions authorizing the purchase of RTBs and indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures shall be required.

6. What is an investor's proof of ownership?

The Underwriters and Selling Agents will sell the RTBs to individuals and other investors on a non-recourse basis through confirmations of outright sale (the "Confirmations of Sale") issued by the Underwriter or Selling Agent. Investors may pick up these Confirmations of Sale a few days after the close of the public offering from the offices of the Underwriter or Selling Agent. In the meantime, an Acknowledgement Receipt will be issued to investors at the time of payment.

No certificate will be issued to bondholders as ownership by individuals and other investors will be registered in electronic form under the BTr's Registry of Scripless Securities.

7. Can an investor still purchase RTBs after the public offering?

After the PO, an investor can buy *RTBs* from the secondary market at prevailing market prices.

8. What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?

The RTBs are considered having the least credit-risk because they represent the direct and unconditional obligation of the government thereby enjoying the highest certainty of payment. The yield is assured if the investor holds on to the bond until maturity. However, if an investor opts to sell the RTBs in the secondary market prior to its maturity, then it will be subject to interest rate risk depending on the prevailing market rate at the time the RTBs are resold in the secondary market.

9. Where can an investor trade his RTBs?

Investors can sell their *RTBs* to the Underwriter/ Selling Agent from which the RTBs were originally purchased subject to prevailing market rates.

Green but no go

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

A TRAVEL agency owner invited by Northwest Airlines last week for a familiarization tour along with other Filipino travel agents was denied entry by US immigration in Minneapolis.

Reason? The travel agent, a green card holder, has spent more than six months outside the United States without seeking prior permission from the US immigration agency. The poor fellow was sent on the next plane back, notwithstanding his age, 82, and despite his family now living in America as citizens and immigrants.

Also last week, two green card holders going back to the US by way of Canada were stopped and denied boarding right at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

An immigration official, it is not clear whether he works for the Philippine agency or for the Canadian embassy, checked the computer to validate the green card holders' claim that they arrived in Manila only last September.

The computerized check showed otherwise; according to the grapevine, the *balikbayans* have been in the country for two years now. To compound their woes, the immigration official told the frustrated returnees that the US embassy would be informed of their overstaying in the Philippines.

The tougher, post-Sept. 11 counter-terrorist measures imposed by Washington have also resulted in curtailing a widespread practice among Filipino US immigrants who go back and overstay in their land of birth.

With US airline counters now collecting departure information to be electronically forwarded along with passenger manifests to the US immigration authorities, US immigration and even security agencies like the FBI and the CIA can now countercheck the length of absence on US soil of returning US immigrants.

In the past, that loophole, the absence of US departure records, enabled Filipino green card holders to ask sympathetic Philippine immigration officials to withhold stamping arrival dates on their passports.

The stamping is done later, showing a later arrival date to comply with the six-month window allowed by US immigration on green card holders.

After reporting the new tougher rules (see Oct. 31 column), Cocktales received a number of immigration-related inquiries. Not being an expert, our standard reply has been, consult an immigration lawyer.

In any case, deportees and denied entries, like the 82-year-old travel agent, may apparently still re-apply for and receive non-immigrant visas if they so wish to visit their US-based families and close relatives.

The late columnist Hernando Abaya, for example, was eventually allowed to return and visit his daughter, a US citizen, despite the journalist having lost a court battle to stay on and continue working in the United States in the 50s. (He spent his last months in Connecticut, during the Aquino years.)

Even Canadian immigrants who go back and overstay in the Philippines with the full knowledge of Canadian authorities can still re-

COCKTALES/ B8

VISAYAS POWER SHORTAGE

IPPs urged to help avert crisis

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy said it has stepped up efforts to ensure that a looming power shortage in the Cebu-Negros-Panay grid would be avoided, especially during the holiday season.

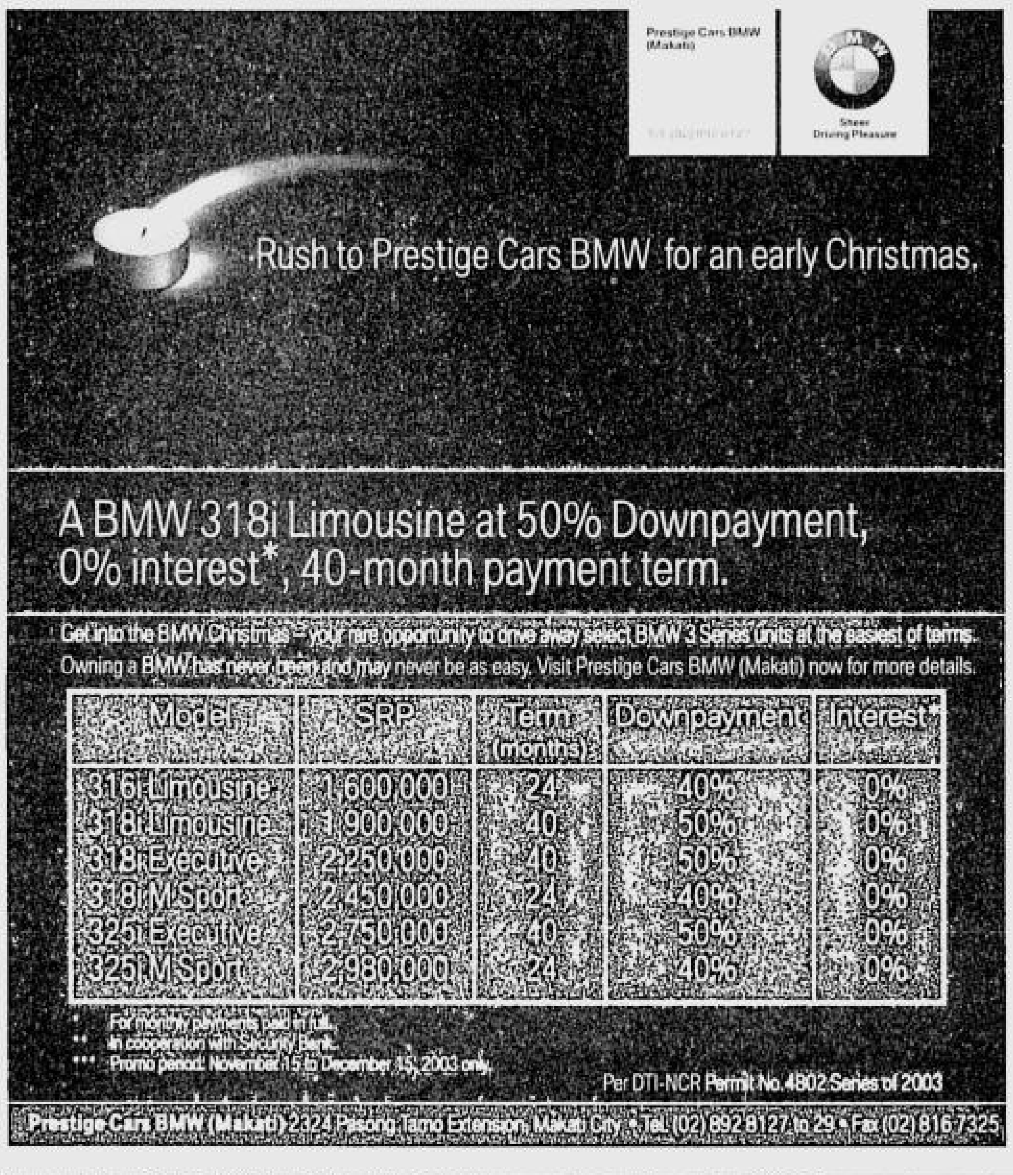
Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the DOE had authorized the National Transmission Corp. to start negotiations with independent power producers Duracom Power and Aggreko on the possible lease of their power barges and generating units.

"Preventive maintenance of the Visayas transmission lines and generating plants were completed recently to prepare for the seasonal peak demand in December," Perez said.

The official said the National Electrification Administration had also been instructed to prod distribution utilities to negotiate with other generators for additional supply.

Perez urged the business community, particularly in the Metro Cebu area, to continue their cooperation when load shedding measures are implemented in times of inadequate power reserve.

IPPs/ B8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PEOPLE at WORK

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How to enhance your work effectiveness

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

DO you ever wonder why, no matter how busy you are with so many things, the things that matter most to you are hard to come by? Do you ever notice how a few successful people can be so effective in whatever they do? Do you ever wish that you had more skills, time and resources to perform "to the max?"

Some people are occasionally successful in achieving their goals, while others seem to have mastered the art of effectiveness in business or career. Effectiveness is consistent success over the long term in whatever you chose to do. Steven Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" have helped many managers become effective in their craft.

I have my own observations, albeit different from Covey's, of what successful people do in order to be effective in business or career. Here are some practical tips (note the alliteration for easy recall):

Back to basics. To succeed, know the basic reason for the existence of your business, job or career. If you're selling products or services, the reason you exist is to satisfy your customer and make a profit. Don't be ashamed to admit, and never forget, that making a profit is the purpose of business. If you are a businessman, it is not a sin to make a profit. On the contrary, it is a sin to lose. If you are a recruitment officer or headhunter, your job is not to give other people jobs but to fill in vacancies in your company.

Whether or not you have a career or a business to take care of, it pays to go back to the basics. It keeps you aligned with the bigger picture. While others go through the motion of doing tasks and activities, successful and effective people always deliver results. If you want to check if what you're doing is getting back to basics, ask yourself, "Am I creating or contributing value that our customers are willing to pay for?"

Be the best. In a highly competitive environment, good or better is not good enough. You simply have to be the best. Whether you are the CEO or the operator, you have a role to play in your organization. Your job may not be as important as other jobs, but if you don't do your best, your organization will not be the best. We can't be all generals—some have to be lieutenants and enlisted men. As long as it is decent work, there is dignity in it. Be the best of whatever you are, in whatever you do.

> Many great men and women have humble beginnings, with almost nothing to start with except their belief in their own selves and dreams.

The truth is that excellent organizations happen because their people are excellent. When you postpone doing an excellent job until you reach a fairly high position in the totem pole, you will never get to that position. Excellent organizations need to be effective at all levels.

Better than before. Nothing remains the same—it gets either better or worse. In life, as in business or career, you can't afford to stand still—or you'll be left behind. Either you get better or you get beaten. Every effective organization or person factors in an improvement in desired goals, income or status over time. It does not take a genius to realize that if you keep doing the same things, you'll keep getting the same results, and maybe less.

The key is to have the basic mindset that there is always a better way. Don't fall in love too much with the things you make or the results you produce. Great people and organizations continually aim to render their own products or personal best obsolete—before others do.

Break time barriers. Breaking the time barrier means going faster than the previous record time. Time is the most important resource, since time lost is never recovered. Things usually take time to accomplish. Those who can break the time barrier benefit tremendously from their feat—faster athletes, vendors and suppliers who create and market products faster, etc. Cycle time is one critical success factor for businesses today.

Calculate your likely retirement pay 25 years from now. If you can earn that amount in two months from today, you shall have gained a lot of money at the shortest time. You shall have achieved in two months what you' would hope to do in 25 years. That practically allows you to enjoy your retirement 24 years and 10 months earlier—at a time when you can most enjoy life. (E-mail me if you want some practical ideas on how to make this happen.)

Boldness to believe. Many successful and effective people in the past dared believe in their own capabilities, despite what others say or think. They were unfazed by the immensity of the task. They never doubted the strength of the human spirit. The Wright brothers, Edison, Bell, and Flores (the Filipino inventor of the fluorescent lamp) were deaf to the cries at the sidelines, "It cannot be done!"

History has shown us that many great men and women have humble beginnings, with almost nothing to start with except their belief in their own selves and dreams. Some of our present-day Filipino tycoons did not even graduate from college when they started to venture into business. In contrast, thousands of people with a master's degree in business administration today have never even dared to dream of administering their own businesses.

Banish the bondage. Most of us are so attached to many things that when we lose them, we are so devastated—money, a regular job, family, etc. With this attachment, we tend to tread the path of life so lightly so as not to disturb the way things are. Early in life, we have been programmed to be a conformist, just a face in the crowd. We always prefer a bird in hand to the hundreds in the bushes. We are not rolling stones that's why we gather nothing but moss. "*Bahay kubo, kahit munti*..." We have been conditioned by our own beliefs that limit what we can achieve. We practically live in bondage.

DIONISIO BUCCAT

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Effective people have unshackled themselves from this bondage. They now live simple lives—if they want anything, they simply get it because they live in abundance. If the rich can dare to be different, I cannot understand why the poor cannot break the tradition when all they have to lose is their poverty.

Bite the bullet. Successful people are decisive about their business or career. They know that they have to make decisions—quick, rational, effective decisions. Some decisions are hard to make, because of the possible social backlash. People are obviously more important than profits. But the longer we take to decide, the higher the economic and social costs.

When push comes to shove, effective people know how to decide—they bite the bullet. They make educated guesses and calculated risks. They know that the worst decision is indecision.

You, too, can be effective. Start with the right mindset. Convince yourself that you can, and it will be easy to convince others. Gain personal mastery until you **become the best.** It won't be long before you can **behold the benefits.**

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a business and human resources consulting firm. He is a past president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. Send feedback to erniec@edsamail.com.ph.)

How do you deal with gifts at work?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've just started working at a company where people give presents to each other. I'm dreading this year's holiday season because I've never had to deal with this at work before. Any suggestions?

No Gift for Gift Giving

Safeco Field, Seattle's new baseball stadium, is noteworthy for two reasons. First, it's the most expensive ever built, sliding home at over half a billion dollars. Second, it has a giant retractable roof. The roof was designed, of course, to protect against the Northwest's famous "liquid sunshine," but it turns out that it also provides another unexpected gift. When the roof is cranked open AGAINST the wind, it costs approximately ten dollars in electricity to move it. But when the roof is opened WITH the wind, its motors act like generators, and the motion actually CREATES seven dollars of electricity. One writer predicted that the stadium's cost overruns could be paid with "three million hours of with-wind roof runs."

Tailor gifts to receiver

Well, gifts at work are a lot like Safeco Field: it takes energy to give them, but done the right way, they return that energy, plus. Ask yourself the following questions, and I think you'll survive this holiday season with energy to spare. You'll find more ideas in Letitia Baldridge's book, "Executive Manners" (Rawson Associates, 1993).

Are these gifts tailored to the people I'm giving them to? A friend of mine buys a small truckload of the same gift every year. And he gives new meaning to the phrase "gag gift," because it's impossible not to gag when his gift arrives. Instead of making you feel like a valued friend, it makes you feel like just another name on a mailing list. Avoid this faux pas by talking with your gift recipients' coworkers so you can target your gifts specifically to his or her interests.

Are they unexpected? Holiday gifts often get lost in the shuffle. So try either a mid-November or a mid-January gift that will be remembered better than something given in the December blur.

Appropriate gift giving

Are they appropriate? In my parent's day, alcohol was a can't-miss. But no more. In fact, today, there are no no-brainer gifts. Before you make a purchase, learn something about the people you're giving to and no one will get embarrassed.

Are they financially appropriate? Few things are more awkward than getting a gift from someone you barely know and realizing it cost as much as the gift you gave your best buddy. Spare other people the pain by keeping your gifts within a reasonable budget.

Are they "funny"? Humor's great—but not necessarily at gift time, because it's so open to misinterpretation. If you must give a funny gift, show it first to someone who knows the person you're giving it to-if that person gives you a funny look, think again.

Obviously, whoever said "it's better to give than to receive" never had to give gifts at work. But follow these tips and your gifts will never strike out.

Poll results

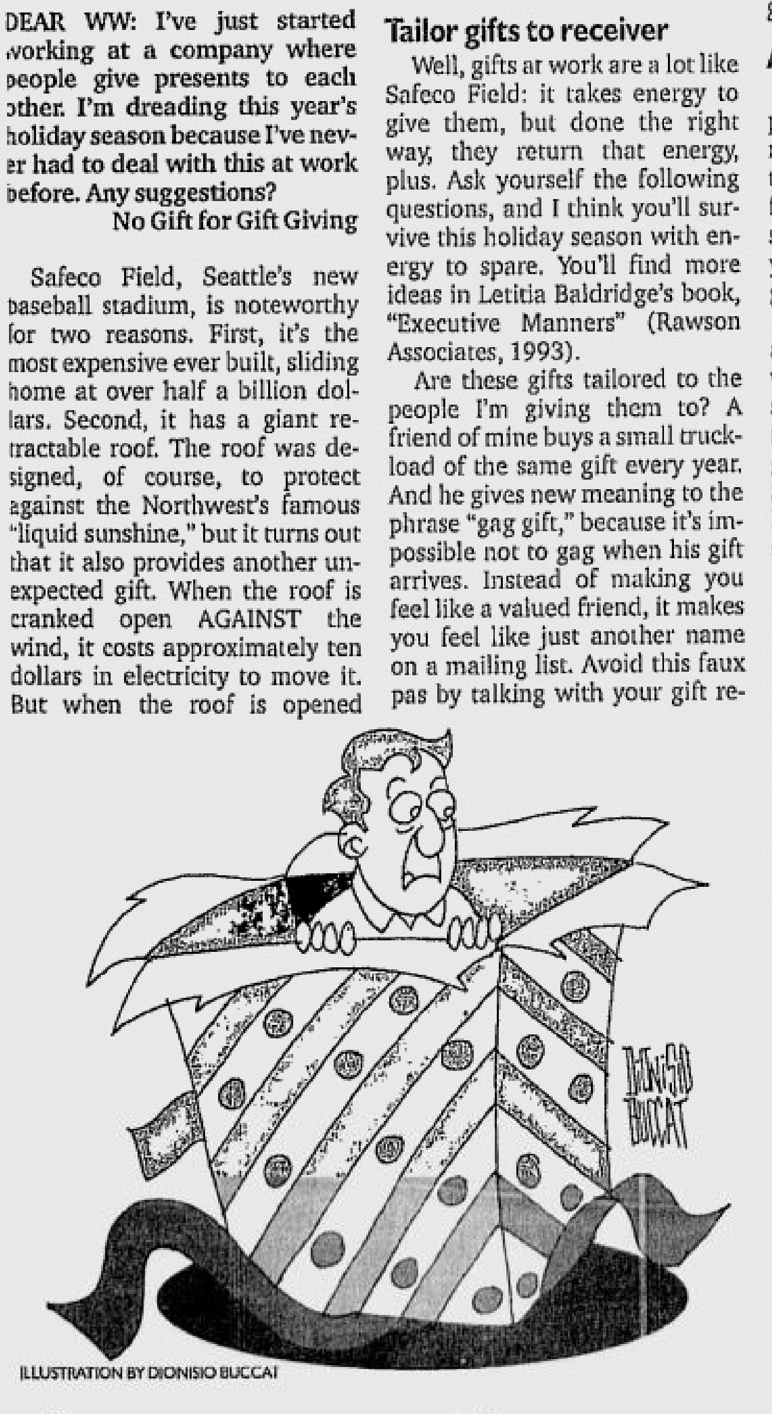
Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com or ABCnews.com poll: What is the best type of gift to RECEIVE at work?

—A donation to my favorite charity, 8.8%

—A gift chosen with me in mind, 23.6%

—No gift is the best gift at work, 67.4%

(Mr. Rosner based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)



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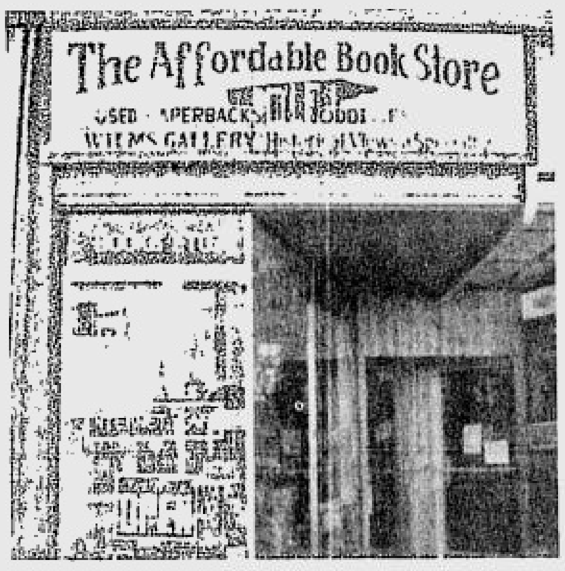
From Abra and Hong Kong, Pinay puts up a 'shop around the corner' in US



'THE SHOP around the corner'

TORQUEZA-ALLAN in her bookstore.

By Ysabel San Pedro-Schuld

CAREER TALES

A CORNUCOPIA of 10,000 books greet you as you browse through the Affordable Bookstore located at 312 ½ East 2nd Street in Dalles, Oregon 60 miles east of Portland. The bookstore, now two years old, is the brainchild of Genoveva Torqueza-Allan, 42, wife to Dan Allan, 39, a tugboat technician at the Tugwater Barge Shipping and Transport Lines, and mom to kids Calvin, 15, and Shirley, 9. A native of Abra, Ilocos Sur, Allan worked as a domestic helper in the mid-80s in Hong Kong where she met her husband.

Passion for books

Allan remembers as a child that she loved to read Nancy Drew mystery books while attending high school at the Heart of Mary High School in Abra, Ilocos Sur. "I did not imagine myself owning a bookstore but my instincts dictated that I should do it since my son who is now a sophomore in high school is a book lover and my daughter likes to read Laura Ingalls and now, Harry Potter."

Allan muses that she has gone far from her humble beginnings. "It was in 1985 where I met Dan at the CrossRoad Disco along Wanchai Road in Hong Kong. In 1991, we got married and in 1993 we moved to the Dalles."

Knowledge of business

Allan knows her business. She has developed her store as a meeting place for people. She knows that most of her women customers dig the works of Jude Deveraux, Nora Roberts, Jane Auel, and Janet Evanovich. "Women in this town love to talk and say 'hi'. The bookstore is their watering hole. I enjoy it too and it made my kids very outgoing since their peers go here to swap or buy books and discuss their reading assignments, too."

Swapping means bartering your books and Allan values books based on their readable quality. If the book is in satisfactory condition and is not torn or dog-eared, she gives $.25 credit from its original value. If the book is in less satisfactory condition, she gives $.10 credit for each book.

"I only charge a service fee of $.10 per book when they buy or swap. My book prices range from $.50 to half the actual price of a brand new book especially if they are in excellent hardbound cover," she explains.

Apart from books, Allan also sells used VHS Tapes, brand new curios, sunglasses, ornamental gewgaws, necklaces and other hair accessories. She also has two computers for surfing over the Net. She charges about $2 for 15 minutes or $6 per hour of Internet use.

Partner in business

Her husband Dan also has a business called Columbia Gorge Computer LLC that is located in the back of her bookstore. "My husband loves to troubleshoot old computers as well as build computer systems. The client states the configuration and he customizes a computer depending on client's budget. The client can bring the parts and Dan will build them or he can do it—buy the parts, configure and build a wonder machine for them."

Allan also puts some of her books up in ebay.com or at half.com and they sell out quickly. Allan says that whenever she could, she donates books to the library or to a secondhand thrift store. "I believe in karma and in making a difference in the lives of others especially in helping people get smart by means of reading a book."

A winning image is power

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

I MUST tell you a nasty truth: success comes easier to attractive people. It's a sticky bit of information many of us not endowed with beauty queen cheekbones, or reed-thin bodies, or aristocratic noses may have chosen to ignore, push outside of our realities. Hard work, after all, should count for much more in the workplace, right? Wrong. Hard work is important but is not enough. If you want to climb up the corporate the ladder, you've got to dress the part, know how the powerful move, and do all you can to harness your natural appeal.

Powerful message

Attractiveness is appeal. Appeal is power. This is the powerful message image consultant Mariecor Salas-Ding told a jam-packed crowd attending the first ever Metro Working Mom Live Seminar series held at the AIM Conference Center two weeks ago. Over 600 working women trooped to the seminar to find out how to package themselves for success. They knew the nasty truth and wanted to know how to get around it.

Whether we care to admit it or not, many working moms who have dropped out of the dating radar, settled into the routine of office and home, have also unwittingly succumbed to a frumpy-am-too-harassed-to-dress-up look. We forget that visual cues count. Our attire, our posture, grooming and demeanor factor a great deal in the way people assess who we are and how they should respond to us. Cry foul all you want. The world is unfair. But don't forget to dab on a bit of blush. If you want to climb up the corporate ladder, you've got to look the part.

What Salas-Ding made powerfully clear is appeal is not about being naturally good looking; it is about cultivating a polished way of dressing, of carrying ourselves well, and of exuding a positive demeanor. The way we walk into a room, Salas-Ding pointed out, already gives people an impression of our socioeconomic standing, our educational attainment, and our desirability. All these are deduced within the first 30 seconds. In other words, we only have less than a minute to exude the image of a winner. Why is this so important? Because people like to be associated with winners, they trust winners, and want to make them part of their team.

Winning image

Winners, according to Salas-Ding, are not simply born they are bred. The polish and finesse of a powerful person can be learned. It's all a matter of recognizing that we are our message: our movements, our decorum, our outfits speak loads to people who watch us. We must simply manage this message. Charo Santos-Concio, EVP and Head of the Entertainment Group at ABS-CBN, is not above putting image building on the agenda of her meeting with her top executives. Presiding over a team of mostly women, Charo manages to squeeze in a few minutes to discuss proper grooming and appropriate attire. There have been times she has asked them to walk across the room, turning the board room into a modeling ramp, so she can evaluate their posture and stance (shoulders must be thrown back, chin up, strides straight). "I want my people to understand that when we go out there, we represent more than ourselves. We represent the company," says Charo. "So we must always look like winners."

Pointers

Not many of us have a boss like Charo who can be model and mentor, but happily, Salas-Ding gave very specific pointers that one can do immediately. Here are five simple ones you can try today, I can guarantee you there will be a marked difference to the way people will react to you today. I tried them and people were so much nicer, more accommodating, and more willing to listen to what I had to say.

Make a grand entrance. Salas-Ding says that when she interviews people for high executive positions, she knows from the moment they enter the room whether she will get the job or not. "It's in how she carries herself," says Salas-Ding. When you walk into a room, imagine that you are walking on stage: throw back your shoulders, hold your head up high, and beam with confidence. Practice it today as you walk into that meeting. People will notice.

Make a lasting impression. When you're meeting with someone, give your full attention to the person you are speaking to. Do not let your eyes wander about. Establish eye contact and let the person feel he or she is important to you. They will then consider you a very important person, too. I tried this on a colleague and he said: "There's something different about you today. You seem so relaxed."

Show some respect. When a person hands over his business card to you, accept it with both hands holding the two bottom corners of the card. Take time to show the giver that you are reading his card and accepting what it says. Also take the time to comment on what you have read, this will make the other person appreciate you more.

Spend more time listening rather than talking. When a person feels that you have listened well to their story or their presentation, they are more likely to listen to you as well and accept what you have to say. Give yourself fully to listening, sending out visual cues like nodding or smiling when important points are made. Then when it is your turn to speak, they will give you the same kind of attention you gave them.

Pay attention to objects you use. Polish is in the details. What kind of pen do you use? Is it a cheap pen with bite marks on it? Ditch it. Is your bag tearing at the seams? Leave it at home. Just as you must pay attention to your grooming and attire, you must also pay attention to the little things that could betray your status. You don't have to own a Montblanc, but you do have to own a professional-looking pen that delivers the message that you have arrived.

It will not take an expensive makeover to enhance your workplace image. But you have to be consistent with the changes that you decide to make. Upgrade your image today, maintain it consistently, and watch your life change. So many more opportunities will come knocking at your door.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Metro Working Mom and Deputy Editorial Director at ABS-CBN Publishing. You may reach her at an_alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com)

How to dress for career success

PHOTOS BY RAY SOBERANO

By Candy G. Villanueva

FINALLY, you've got your diploma. Armed and dangerous with a lethal degree, you're all set with your beefy resume to conquer the real world. Is your suit of armor shiny enough for the job?

Maybe, you already got a nifty job. Why dress to impress, right? Wrong! You need to win that client. You need to get promoted. You need a raise. Everybody is moving up. Are you?

Some people take the packaging for granted but image is important. As the tired old body spray commercial claims, "First impressions lasts; what happens next is up to you."

So how do you gear up for the real world? Smartly, of course. A smartly dressed person commands respect, admiration and hopefully, employment and career growth.

Casual is out

It's time to ditch your well-worn sneakers and colorful backpack. Your hip huggers won't sit easily with your prospective employer. You need to project an image of maturity, responsibility and confidence. Baby tees just won't do the job no matter how cute you look in it.

Customize your business attire according to the company you're applying for. While some companies have a casual environment, it is always best to put your best foot forward, or for ladies, your best high-heeled foot forward.

Find out about the company you are applying for. Some advertising agencies and call centers, for example, encourage a relaxed and creative atmosphere. But relaxed or creative doesn't necessarily mean torn jeans or funky shirts.

Appropriate attire

Play it safe and go with a nice tailored pair of slacks and a decent buttoned top or a sleeved shirt. Ladies could also opt for a tailored dress or a sleeved blouse with a tailored skirt. Ally McBeal may have pulled off the miniskirt look in the office but you wouldn't want to be identified as the office flirt. Short skirts should be not more than two inches above the knees.

For a more corporate look, a tailored jacket or blazer would look impressive for both genders. If you intend to borrow your dad's jacket, you might as well go bare. Invest in a well-tailored fitted jacket, if you plan to move up the corporate world.

Guys are expected to wear dark formal slacks and light colored long-sleeved polo shirt or barong. The pants' hem should fall on the base of the heel when barefoot. If you're aiming for the "big time," a dark three-piece suit in lightweight fabric will speak volumes.

Neat and complete

To project a sharp and smart image, make sure your pieces are clean and properly ironed. Creases and missing buttons don't exactly spell composed.

Tight fitting clothes are appropriate club wear but not for the corporate setting. Avoid sloppiness by investing on a well-fitted wardrobe.

For men, a decent clean haircut speaks volumes. Go squeaky clean and shave.

It is advisable for women to wear their hair up tied or pinned so strands don't get in the way during the interview. Frequent tucking of the hair behind the ears is the best way to flirt but flirtation is not what you're going for.

Keep nails clean and trimmed. Unless you're applying as a showgirl, red lacquered nails will more than likely not get you the job. If you have to have color, go for a French Tip. Similarly, make-up should be understated.

Avoid looking totally bare. You are going for a mature look and moderately and properly applied make-up will do the trick. Stay away from bright, glossy and glittery products.

(More next week)

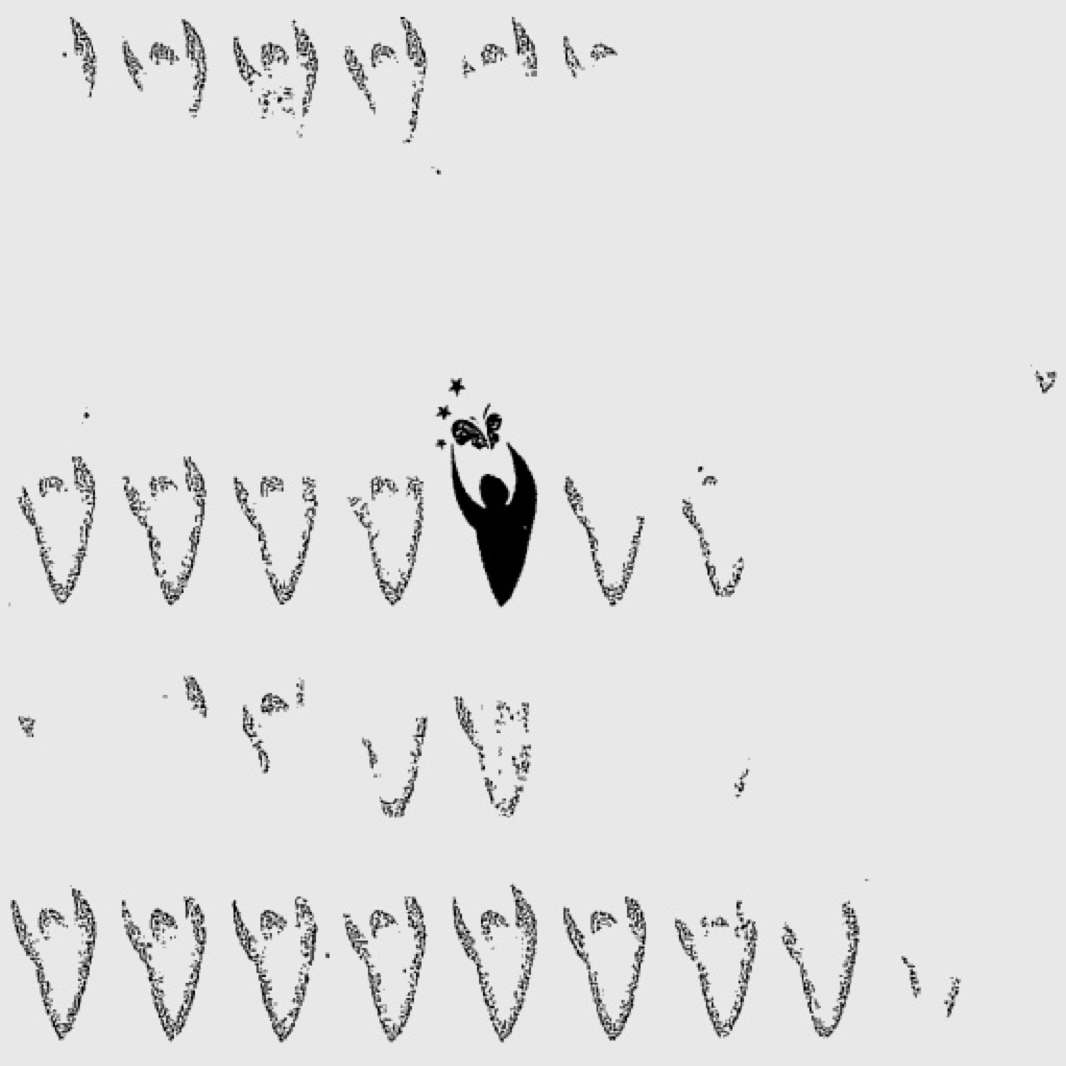
Catching the latest trends in HR

ATENEO CORD (Center for Organization Research and Development) cordially invites all HR practitioners and other interested parties to its Trendwatcher Series. These short learning sessions serve as venue for featuring research and best practices on the latest trends in HR.

On Dec. 3, Trendwatcher Series focuses on, "Rewards That Matter: What Motivates the Filipino Employee" to be held on Dec. 3, 2003 (Wednesday) from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Amphitheater of the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell Center. In partnership with Motivation Asia, the session shall feature a study done on employee rewards as well as some reward practices.

Fee is at P500 for early registrants and P750 for late registrants. Call, e-mail or visit Ateneo CORD for registration and more details at 426-6065, ateneocord@admu.edu.ph, 2/F Hoffner Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC.

Do you stand out in a crowd?



ARE YOU ONE OF THE BEST MARKETING STUDENTS OF YOUR SCHOOL?

The Philippine Marketing Association is now awarding the most prestigious marketing award to ten university students.
The Agora Youth Awards is the highest award conferred to ten students who are recognized
to have shown marketing excellence in their studies and co-curricilar activities.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. The nominee must be a student of the nominating school for at least (1) school year from the date of nomination.
2. The nominee must have:
   A. Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 80% or its equivalent.
   B. No grade lower than 85% or its equivalent in Marketing subjects.
3. The candidate must be endorsed by the College Dean, Marketing Department Chairman or Marketing Adviser of the nominating school.
4. A maximum of ten entries per school will be accepted (first come/first served basis)

AGORA YOUTH AWARDS FOR MARKETING ORGANIZATION

QUALIFICATIONS

1. The association / nominee must be existing for at least one (1) school year from the date of the nomination.
2. The association must not be under probationary status and must not have any derogatory record.
3. The nomination of the association must be endorsed by the College Dean and Dean of Student /Academic Affairs and Faculty Adviser.
4. The association must have implemented projects and programs, which enhance the excellence of marketing as a course and a profession. (Documented evidence of projects and programs conducted and achievements must be submitted together with the nomination form).
5. A maximum of three entries per school will be accepted (first come/first served basis)

What we need from you:

1. Nomination Form (get this from your marketing organization)
2. Resume (maximum of 2 pages) with Passport size photo (2pcs.)
3. One-page personal essay on why I should be awarded
4. Activities / involvement in activities. Ensure that each activity included in presentation has the following:
   a. Title of the Project
   b. Activity / Project involvements
   c. Awards & recognition received for the project
5. Scholastic & Leadership Awards & recognition received
6. Official Transcript of Grade (Certified True Copy)

Deadline of entries is November 30, 2003.

For more information, please contact
your marketing organization or the
Philippine Marketing Association
at 634-4890 and 634-5722.
or email agorayouth@yahoo.com.

AGORA
YOUTH
AWARDS

FOCUS ON MASS HOUSING

Construction firm starts IPO

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONSTRUCTION firm Supercity Realty Development Corp., which will list its shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange on Dec. 19, plans to focus on mass housing projects in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Quezon) and Bulacan areas.

Supercity president Arthur Lim told reporters yesterday that part of the P50 million in net proceeds from its initial public offering would be used for the establishment of a movable batching plant worth P7.6 million, which should make the company's use of primary construction materials such as ready-mix concrete more efficient.

The company also plans to focus on Calabarzon and Bulacan areas because these are where most low-cost housing developments are located.

It seeks to concentrate primarily on horizontal residential housing and land development projects where it has a competitive advantage over competitors owing to its use of modern technology for mass housing production.

Using fresh funds from the IPO, it also plans to acquire new capital assets such as land development equipment, construction facilities, collapsible barracks, stockyard and container vans. These purchases, estimated at P24.1 million, will provide Supercity with its own equipment instead of renting them.

For this year, Supercity expects to chalk up P6.15 million in net income, which is projected to rise to P12.66 million in 2004 and P16.61 million in 2005.

"For the years 2004 and 2005, revenues were based on the development plans of the company's major clients. The company expects to get a share of between 50 and 55 percent of these contracts. The foregoing resulted to a 20-percent (projected) growth for each of the years from 2004 to 2005," the company said in its prospectus to investors.

As of the first nine months of this year, it has generated P6.6 million in net profits, down from P9.6 million in the same period last year.

Supercity aims to obtain a bigger share of its existing client's construction requirements. Its major clients include real estate developers like Extraordinary Development Corp., Earth + Style Corp. and Acerhomes Development Corp.

As of end-September this year, Supercity's total assets stood at P200.72 million, up from P167.84 million, most of which are in the form of current trade receivables.

The company, which has tapped Abacus Capital and Investment Corp. as its underwriter, is offering 50 million new common shares or 45.45 percent of its post-IPO capital at P1.10 each. The offering started yesterday and will end on Dec. 3.

Security Bank names Villarosa president

VILLAROSA

SECURITY Bank Corp. chair Frederick Dy announced the election yesterday of Alberto S. Villarosa as the bank's new president and chief executive officer effective as of the first banking day of January 2004, vice Rafael F. Simpao Jr. who has reached the mandatory retirement age.

Villarosa joined Security Bank as senior executive vice president and chief operating officer in October 2002 as part of the bank's institutionalized corporate succession process.

Villarosa was formerly executive vice president and treasurer at Bank of the Philippine Islands from 1996 up to the time of his transfer to Security Bank, and has served as director for the various subsidiaries of BPI.

He was formerly executive vice president, treasurer and head of investment banking for Citytrust Banking Corp. from 1987 up to the time of its merger with BPI in 1996, and concurrently president of Citytrust Investment Corp. and Citytrust Securities Corp. He was formerly a vice president at Citibank N.A.

Simpao continues as member of the Security Bank board of directors and was elected as chair of the executive committee.

Security Bank's board commended and thanked Simpao for ably steering the bank during the critical periods in the history of the domestic economy, particularly during the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s and for strengthening the bank's balance sheet and asset quality indices.

Under Simpao, the bank's assets grew to current levels of P70 billion, the 10th largest in the industry, with capital funds at P10 billion.

Cocktales . . .

From page B5

turn to their adopted country, although under a different scheme.

One journalist who now lives and works in Manila in violation of his Canadian "green card" rules simply applies for a visitor's visa every year whenever he wishes to visit his parents and brothers, now Canadian citizens, in Ontario.

The Canadian embassy has always issued him a non-immigrant visa, notwithstanding his by now questionable immigrant status.

Antonio's annex

FANS of Antonio's, the reservations-only restaurant deep in a wooded section of Tagaytay, have now more reason to rejoice.

The popular fine-dining place has just opened a more accessible café just past the military radar along the highway.

The lake ridge property used to be the vacation house of the family of Catalino Macaraig Jr., which Antonio's leased and opened, ironically, on the day that the Aquino executive secretary passed away.

The café serves Swiss breakfast all day, along with pasta dishes and hamburgers. Payment, as in its mother restaurant, is still on a cash-basis, an irritation and an inconvenience to credit carders.

Still, that has not prevented weekend drivers, like the Porsche club, from making a quick trip last Sunday morning.

Chavit + Ping endorser

DESTILERIA Limtuaco heiress Olivia Limpe-Aw stirred quite a controversy when she made Sen. Panfilo Lacson TV endorser for the family's White Castle whisky instead of the usual Lady Godiva-like models.

(For those who have not seen the TV spots, Lacson does not look anywhere like a bewigged Godiva, contrary to the gay claims of columnist Ramon Tulfo.)

Now, the liquor heiress has roiled the waters again with the launching yesterday, in Club Filipino, of a biography of Edsa II hero "Chavit" Singson. No less than Limpe-Aw bankrolled the project as book publisher.

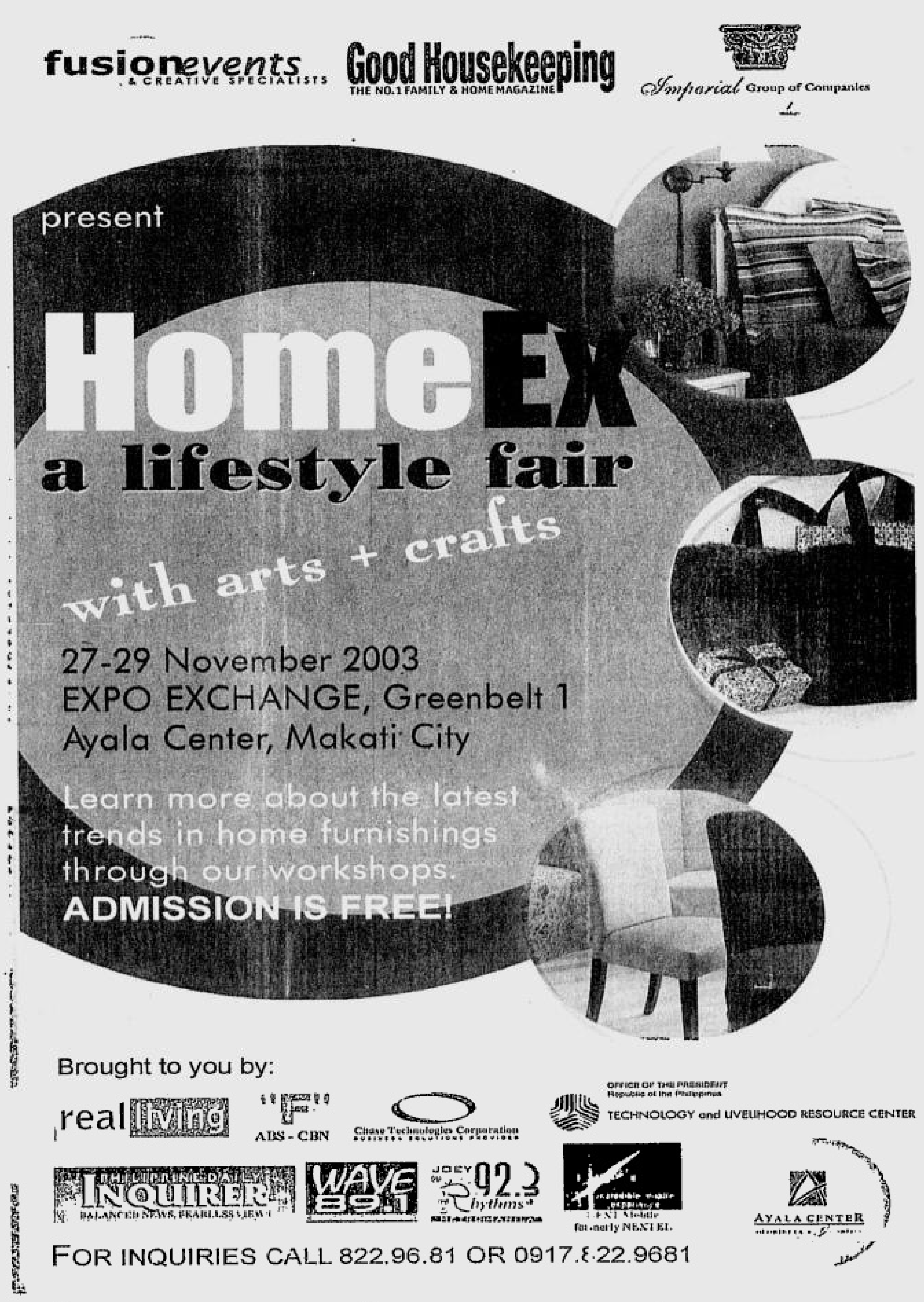
According to the grapevine, Singson was himself unaware of the Lacson connection of Limpe-Aw until the book project was way very much advanced.

The liquor heiress was an enthusiastic supporter and member of the Ramos-era Philippines Inc. and, later, its Estrada-era reincarnation, Team Philippines, if we remember correctly.

Heard through the grapevine

THE NEWLY opened Gucci shop in Greenbelt 4 met its first-month sales target in just two days.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)



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IPPs . . .

From page B5

In a related development, National Power Corp. had postponed for the second time the bidding for the P535-million contract for the transfer of a 108-megawatt diesel plant from Batangas to Iloilo on Panay Island.

Records from the Department of Energy showed that the four-province island had a dependable generating capacity of 73 MW, but that demand was hitting as high as 125 MW, which means a shortage of 52 MW.

In July, Perez said Panay was already suffering from daily power interruptions of between two and five hours.

Efforts to lure energy investments have attracted Korea Electric Power Co., which is planning to build a $150-million, 100-MW coal-fed power plant on the island.

Mirant Philippines and its partner Global Holdings of the Metrobank group are also building 40 MW more of additional capacity for the existing 70-MW power plant in La Paz, Iloilo City.

Mirant is also pouring in P600 million for two diesel-fired power plants in Aklan.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 25, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	3,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	1,643,700
China Banking Corp.	665	665	665	665	3,840
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	35	34	35	29,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.59	1,060,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26.5	26	26	88,500
Philippine National Bank	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	1,000
Phil. Savings Bank	26	26	26	26	200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	16,800
Security Bank Corp.	17	17.5	17	17.5	4,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	1,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	175	185	175	185	1,150
Manulife Financial Corp.	1690	1690	1690	1690	2,380
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1330	1330	1330	1330	3,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	27	26	27	12,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	150,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	760	750	755	287,870
ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.04	0.037	0.04	2,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	7,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	3,930,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	770	780	770	775	112,160
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	49,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	529,100
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	21.75	22	1,321,400
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.14	2.04	2.14	11,664,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2	2	2	2	2,856,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	130,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	69,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	31	30	31	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	111,900
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	200,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	16,500
San Miguel Corp. B	61.5	61.5	61.5	61.5	13,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.95	4.95	5,981,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	30,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	9,040,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.195	0.205	1,180,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	8,800,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.75	18.25	18.75	892,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	302,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,820,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	250,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,950,000
Music Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	400,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	1,030,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.43	0.38	0.43	1,830,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26.5	27.5	26.5	27.5	67,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	3,857,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,710,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	2,339,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	560,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	10,154,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	130,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,869,170	86,561,750.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	110,218,730	438,127,960.00
PRO	18,810,000	93,137,850.00
Mining	8,680,000	762,300.00
OIL	10,000,000	30,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	150,577,900	618,619,860.00

AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	423.01	UP 0.40
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,002.92	UP 15.03
PRO	563.91	UP 5.04
Mining	1,625.61	DOWN 36.41
OIL	1.33	DOWN 0.03
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	837.24	UP 0.42
Composite	1,344.36	UP 9.78

NO. OF ADVANCES: 29; NO. OF DECLINES: 15; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 80; NO. OF TRADES: 1,515

DISCLOSURES

THE MONETARY board of **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas** approved Philippine National Bank's proposed issuance of up to $140 million unsecured subordinated notes to raise Lower Tier 2 capital.

***

ELECTED directors of **AJO.Net Holdings Inc.** were Simplicio Roxas, Anselmo Trinidad Jr., Alfredo Ramos, Chito Bustamante, Antonio Ramon Lopez, Miguel Varela and Ronaldo Salonga.

***

BOULEVARD Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 12, 10 a.m. at the Social Hall A, 3/F of One Roxas Triangle, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of Nov. 10 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

WILLIAM, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc. will decrease its authorized capital stock from P2 billion to over P1.7 billion divided into 1.625 billion common shares with P1 par value and over 150 million preferred shares also with par value of P1.

***

EVELYN Enriquez was elected corporate secretary of **Philippine Seven Corp.** ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

November 25, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.849762067	1.000000	55.649000
Japan	Yen	0.007769	0.009143	0.508800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.441281	1.696100	94.386300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109411	0.128755	7.165100
Switzerland	Franc	0.643467	0.757232	42.139200
Canada	Dollar	0.644687	0.758668	42.219100
Singapore	Dollar	0.493474	0.580720	32.316500
Australia	Dollar	0.611163	0.719217	40.023700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.25407	2.652590	147.614000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226591	0.266652	14.838900
Brunei	Dollar	0.492045	0.579039	32.222900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0001	0.000118	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.021314	0.025082	1.395800
UAE	Dirham	0.231379	0.272287	15.152500
Euro	Euro	1	1.176800	65.487700
Argentina	Peso	0.294036	0.346021	19.255700
Brazil	REAL	0.292015	0.343643	19.123400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134465	0.158238	8.805800
India	Rupee	0.018558	0.021839	1.215300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223651	0.263193	14.646400
Mexico	New Peso	0.07532	0.088637	4.932600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541975	0.637796	35.492700
Norway	Kroner	0.122568	0.144238	8.026700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014908	0.017544	0.976300
South Africa	Rand	0.12934	0.152207	8.470200
Korea	Won	0.000705	0.000830	0.046200
Sweden	Kroner	0.111558	0.131282	7.305700
Syria	Pound	0.0165	0.019417	1.080500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025	0.029420	1.637200
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000533	0.000627	0.034900

Reliving Jose Rizal's legacy

UNITED Laboratories, the leading pharmaceutical company in the country, has been championing the Rizal Memorial Award for more than a decade. Together with its initiator, the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (Stamp), and the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Unilab hopes to inspire both physicians and non-physicians to perpetuate the memory and legacy of Rizal.

As a physician both in the actual and patriotic sense, Dr. Jose Rizal worked for healing of the physical body and of his country. While he employed his skills for the sick and the needy, he dedicated his talents to curing what he termed as the "cancer" of society, and shines through most in his essays, poems, and his two prodigious novels.

In this manner, the Pride of the Malay Race managed to elevate his role as a doctor into the dimension of the sublime. As a genius, he not only was a writer and physician-surgeon, but also an architect, a painter, an educator, a historian, a journalist, a linguist, a psychologist, a sculptor, a theologian, an ethnologist, and a sociologist. As a nationalist, he imparted ideas that served as a catalyst for a revolution and earned the country's freedom from colonial rule.

Rizal's life remains a catalyst up to the present, inspiring the modern Filipino to strive for excellence and service for the common good, especially in these times of economic and socio-political difficulties. The impetus to make his legacy relevant to the times has resulted in the creation of the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award, a distinction given annually to an outstanding physician whose life and work embody the ideals of the national hero.

To earn the award, the nominee should reflect, in his conduct, practice and life, Rizal's love for God and country and selfless service to his fellows, especially the poor and underprivileged.

"There's no better way for us to honor the memory of one of the greatest Filipinos who ever lived than by reliving his achievements through our modern heroes year after year. We're thankful of the constant support from Unilab that enables us to conduct this award on a national level, and so assess the significant contributions of each and every worthy Filipino," said Dr. Monalisa Cosme, Stamp president.

The panel of judges is composed of distinguished individuals, namely Manuel M. Dayrit, chair of the 13th Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award, Avelina de la Rea-Tan PhD, Commissioner of the Professional Regulation Commission, Zorayda Leopando, past president of the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians, Barbara C. Gonzalez, writer and columnist and granddaughter of Rizal, Edgardo T. Caparas MD, FACS, dean of the College of Optometry of the Central Colleges of the Philippines, Rev. Fr. Rolando de la Rosa OP, rector, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Calamba City, Ambeth R. Ocampo, chair of the National Historical Institute, and Martin M. Cabrera MD, vice president of the Philippine Medical Association.

By espousing the noble objective of the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award, Unilab reaffirms its commitment to the improvement of the medical community. The company has been working hand in hand with doctors and health care professionals to meet the health care needs of millions of Filipinos, and strives to provide high-quality medical products and services at affordable prices-all in the spirit of bayanihan, the great Filipino tradition of comradeship that lies at the heart of the company's culture.

DR. ESTANISLAO RECEIVES TOKEN FROM PRSP

Dr. Jesus P. Estanislao (center), head for Institute for Solidarity in Asia and Institute of Corporate Directors receives a token of appreciation from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) during its 11th National Public Relations Congress held recently at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. In his keynote address, Dr. Estanislao stressed on the importance of building relationships for a better Philippines - participating in the global community, forging tools and instruments to integrate people, uniting our nation, and making the Philippines whole. Also shown in photo is Jones Campos (left), PR Congress chair; and Winston Marbella (right), PRSP president.

EVARESTO-DEC AGREEMENT

Evaresto Corp recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Divine Economics (DEC) assigning the latter as the marketing arm for Natropin Rejuvenation Program in the Philippines. Shown, from left, are Dr. Ching Ilao-Oreta MD, Evaresto Corp president and general manager, Dr. Jose F. Oreta Jr MD, Evaresto Corp chair, and Marose B. Rockwell, DEC president. For more information about the product, call Evaresto Corp at 721-1676 and 721-1602 or Divine Economics Corp at 817-1317, 843-7205 or 817-1321.

MASONIC DISTRICT # 3
FREEMASONRY
G

FREEMASONS DONATE TO PGH CHARITY WARD

Labong Lodge #59 of Masonic Dsitrict #3, under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines, donated feeding bottles to the pediatric charity ward of the Philippine General Hospital. Shown are the staff of PGH with Freemasons representatives Bro. Peter Sy and Bro. Winston Chingkiat and Carmelita Joson.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 *www.philhealth.gov.ph*

October 2, 2003

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 34, s-2003

TO : ALL ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, CLAIMS PROCESSING DEPARTMENTS – NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES (PROs), AND ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Reimbursement of claims for drugs listed in the PNDF Vol. 1 6th edition and PhilHealth List of Reimbursable Drugs (Positive List)

The National Formulary Committee of the Department of Health has released the official list of drugs under Section 3.0 Anti-infectives, Section 5.0 Cardiovascular drugs and Section 6.0 Diuretics, of the Philippine National Drug Formulary (PNDF) Vol. 1 6th edition, as approved by the Secretary of Health.

Pursuant to Section 37 of Republic Act 7875 and PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 265 s. 1999 which provides for the use of the latest edition of the PNDF for reimbursement, the said list of drugs shall be implemented as follows:

1. New drugs and drug preparations that are now included in Sections 3.0, 5.0 and 6.0 of the PNDF, Vol. 1 6th edition (Annex 1), shall be compensable for claims with admission dates starting November 1, 2003.
2. To give a reasonable time for adjustment on the non - reimbursability of delisted drugs and drug preparations in the latest edition of the PNDF (Annex 2) as well as drugs in the Positive List indicated for hypertension, urinary tract infection and pneumonia which are recommended in the adopted Clinical Practice Guidelines as stated in PhilHealth Circular No. 35, s. 2002 (Annex 3), they shall continue to be compensated until December 31, 2003.

   Claims for these delisted (Annex 2) and Positive List (Annex 3) drugs with admission dates starting January 1, 2004 shall NO longer be compensable.

All other provisions consistent with this circular remain in full force and effect.

(Sgd) FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
President and CEO

ANNEX 1
New Drugs and Drug Preparations Included in the PNDF Vol. 1 6th Edition

GENERIC NAME	ROUTE	PREPARATION
A. ADDITIONAL COMPENSABLE DRUGS (by November 1, 2003)		
Section 3.0 ANTI-INFECTIVES		
Artemether + Lumefantrin	Oral:	20 mg artemether + 120 mg lumefantrin tablet
Didanoside	Oral:	250 mg delayed release capsule 200 mg chewable and dispersable tablet
Gatifloxacin	Oral:	400 mg tablet
	Inj.:	10 mg/mL, 40 mL vial (IV)
Isoniazid + Thiacetazone	Oral:	300 mg + 150 mg tablet
Nelfinavir	Oral:	250 mg film coated tablet (as mesilate) 250 mg tablet (as mesilate) 50 mg/scoop (1g) powder, 144 g bottle to be mixed with water, milk or food (as mesilate)
Nevirapine	Oral:	200 mg tablet 50 mg/5 mL suspension, 240 mL
Oseltamivir	Oral:	75 mg capsule (as phosphate)
Pyrimethamine	Oral:	25 mg tablet
Rifabutin	Oral:	150 mg capsule (restricted for HIV/AIDS patients on concomitant protease inhibitor therapy. In lieu of rifampicin)
Stavudine	Oral:	20 mg, 30 mg and 40 mg capsule
Section 5.0 CARDIOVASCULAR DRUGS		
Adenosine (1,2)	Inj.	3mg/mL, 2 mL vial (IV) (for SVT)
Bisoprolol	Oral	2.5 mg and 5 mg tablet (as fumarate)
Clopidogrel	Oral	75 mg tablet
Enalapril + Hydrochlorothiazide	Oral	20 mg enalapril + 12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide tablet
Fenofibrate	Oral	67 mg, 100 mg and 200 mg capsule
Irbesartan + Hydrochlorothiazide	Oral	150 mg irbesartan + 12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide tablet 300 mg irbesartan + 12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide tablet
Losartan + Hydrochlorothiazide	Oral	50 mg losartan + 12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide tablet 100 mg losartan + 25 mg hydrochlorothiazide tablet
Morphine	Inj.	10 mg/mL, 1 mL ampul (IM, IV, SC) (as sulfate)
	Inj.	15 mg/mL, 1 mL ampul (IM, IV, SC) (as sulfate)
Norepinephrine	Inj.	1 mg/mL, 2 mL ampul (IV Infusion) (as bitartrate)
Recombinant tissue plasminogen	Inj.	1 mg/mL 50 mL vial IV infusion
Sodium Nitroprusside activator	Inj.	50 mg powder ampul (IV Infusion)
Tirofiban	Inj.	250 mcg/mL concentrated solution for dillution for IV infusion 50 mL (as hydrochloride)
-Nothing follows-		
B ADDITIONAL COMPENSABLE DRUG PREPARATIONS (by November 1, 2003)		
Section 3.0 ANTI-INFECTIVES		
Albendazole	Oral:	200 mg/5 mL suspension, 60 mL
Amphotericin B (Lipid complex)	Inj.:	50 mg vial (IV infusion) (as cholesteryl complex,colloidal dispersion) 100 mg vial (IV infusion) (as cholesteryl complex,colloidal dispersion)
Azithromycin	Oral:	500 mg tablet
	Inj.:	500 mg powder, vial (IV infusion) (as dihydrate)
Clarithromycin	Oral:	500 mg modified release tablet 125 mg/5 mL granules/powder for suspension, 70 mL
	Inj.:	500 mg lyophilized powder, 10 mL vial (IV infusion) (as lactobionate)
Clindamycin	Inj.:	150 mg/mL, 2 mL vial (IM,IV) (as phosphate) 150 mg/mL, 4 mL vial (IM,IV) (as phosphate)
Co-amoxiclav	Oral:	875 mg amoxicillin (as trihydrate) + 125 mg potassium clavulanate per tablet 200 mg amoxicillin (as trihydrate) + 28.5 mg potassium clavulanate per 5 mL granules/powder for suspension, 70 mL 250 mg amoxicillin (as trihydrate) + 62.5 mg potassium clavulanate per 5 mL granules/powder for suspension, 100 mL 400 mg amoxicillin (as trihydrate) + 57 mg potassium clavulanate per 5 mL granules/powder for suspension, 30 mL 400 mg amoxicillin (as trihydrate) + 57 mg potassium clavulanate per 5 mL granules/powder for suspension, 70 mL
Diethylcarbamazine	Oral:	100 mg tablet
Famciclovir	Oral:	125 mg tablet
Ganciclovir	Oral:	250 mg capsule
Indinavir	Oral:	200 mg capsule (as sulfate)
Isoniazid + Ethambutol	Oral:	200 mg + 500 mg tablet
Isoniazid + Rifampicin	Oral:	100 mg + 150 mg tablet 200 mg + 225 mg tablet 300 mg + 450 mg tablet 400 mg + 450 mg tablet 600 mg + 400 mg tablet/film coated tablet
Isoniazid + Rifampicin + Pyrazinamide	Oral:	300 mg + 450 mg + 500 mg tablet
Isoniazid + Rifampicin + Pyrazinamide + Ethambutol	Oral:	60 mg + 120 mg + 300 mg + 225 mg tablet 200 mg + 450 mg + 500 mg + 400 mg tablet
Mebendazole	Oral:	500 mg chewable tablet
Netilmicin	Inj.:	50 mg/mL, 2 mL vial (IM,IV) (as sulfate) 100 mg/mL, 1.5 mL vial (IM,IV) (as sulfate) 100 mg/mL, 2 mL ampul (IM,IV) (as sulfate) 75 mg/mL, 2 mL ampul (IM,IV) (as sulfate)
Quinine	Inj.:	250 mg/mL, 1 mL ampul (IV) (as dihydrochloride)
Zidovudine	Oral:	300 mg tablet
Section 5.0 CARDIOVASCULAR DRUGS		
Amlodipine	Oral	20 mg tablet (as besylate)
Carvedilol	Oral	6.25 mg tablet
Dobutamine	Inj.	250 mg/250 mL D5W (pre-mixed) (IV) (as hydrochloride) 500 mg/250 mL D5W (pre-mixed) (IV) (as hydrochloride) 1000 mg/250 mL D5W (pre-mixed) (IV) (as hydrochloride)
Dopamine	Inj.	800 mg/250 mL D5W (pre-mixed) (IV) (as hydrochloride)
Enoxaparin	Inj.	100 mg/mL, 1 mL vial (SC)
Furosemide	Oral	80 mg tablet
Glyceryl Trinitrate (nitroglycerine)	Inj.	1mg/mL, 5 mL ampul (IV Infusion) (only for unstable angina) (1) 1mg/mL, 25 mL ampul (IV Infusion) (only for unstable angina) (1) 1mg/mL, 50 mL glass vial (IV Infusion) (only for unstable angina) (1)
Irbesartan	Oral	75 mg tablet
Isosorbide - 5 - Mononitrate	Oral	30 mg SR tablet 60 mg SR tablet
Losartan	Oral	100 mg tablet (as potassium salt)
Nimodipine	Inj.	10 mg solution, 50 mL vial for IV infusion
Propranolol (B) (Non-cardio-selective/ no ISA)	Oral	40 mg CR capsule (as hydrochloride) 80 mg CR capsule (as hydrochloride)
Streptokinase	Inj.	750,000 IU vial IV infusion
Section 6.0 DIURETICS		
Sambong (Blumea balsamifera, L. DC (fam. Compositae))	Oral	500 mg tablet
-Nothing follows-		

ANNEX 2

Drugs and Drug Preparations Delisted from the PNDF
NOT COMPENSABLE DRUGS (by January 1, 2004)

GENERIC NAME	ROUTE	PREPARATION
A. DELISTED NON-COMPENSABLE DRUGS (by November 1, 2003)		
Section 3.0 ANTI-INFECTIVES		
Aztreonam	Inj.:	500 mg and 1 g vial (IM)
Cefadroxil	Oral:	500 mg capsule (as monohydrate) 50 mg/mL granules/powder for drops, 10 mL (as monohydrate) 250 mg/5 mL granules/powder for suspension, 30 mL and 60 mL (as monohydrate)
Nafcillin	Inj.:	500 mg and 1 g vial (IV) (as sodium salt)
Neomycin	Oral:	500 mg equivalent to 350 mg base per tablet (as sulfate)
Penicillin G Procaine	Inj.:	300,000 units procaine pen. G + 100,000 units buffered pen. G sodium per vial
Probenecid	Oral:	500 mg tablet
Secnidazole	Oral:	500 mg tablet 167 mg/5 mL suspension, 15 mL 187.5 mg/5 mL suspension, 20 mL
Section 5.0 CARDIOVASCULAR DRUGS		
Dipyridamole	Oral	20 mg, 50 mg, 75 mg and 150 mg tablet (preferably used in combination with aspirin)
Nicotinic Acid	Oral	25 mg, 50 mg and 100 mg tablet
Ticlopidine	Oral	250 mg tablet (as hydrochloride)
B. DELISTED NON-COMPENSABLE DRUG PREPARATIONS (by November 1, 2003)		
Section 3.0 ANTI-INFECTIVES		
Aciclovir	Inj.:	25 mg/mL, 20 mL vial (IV infusion)
Cefotaxime	Inj.:	2 g vial + 10 mL diluent (IM,IV) (as sodium salt)
Cefuroxime	Oral:	125 mg tablet (as axetil) 125 mg/5 mL granules for suspension 100 mL (as axetil)
Clarithromycin	Inj.:	50 mg/mL powder, 10 mL vial (IV)
Clindamycin	Oral:	75 mg/5 mL granules for suspension, 30 mL (as palmitate hydrochloride) 75 mg/5 mL granules for suspension, 120 mL (as palmitate hydrochloride)
	Inj.:	150 mg/mL, 6 mL ampul (IM,IV) (as phosphate)
Cloxacillin	Oral:	125 mg/5 mL powder for syrup/ suspension, 30 mL (as sodium salt)
	Inj.:	500 mg vial (IM,IV) (as sodium salt)
Co-amoxiclav	Oral:	250 mg amoxicillin (as trihydrate) +125 mg potassium clavulanate per tablet 250 mg amoxicillin (as trihydrate)+ 62.5 mg potassium clavulanate per 5 mL granules/powder for suspension, 30 mL
Dapsone	Oral:	50 mg tablet
Griseofulvin	Oral:	250 mg tablet (microsize) 330 mg tablet (ultramicrosize)
Metronidazole	Inj.:	5 mg/mL, 20 mL ampul (pediatric IV infusion)
Minocycline	Oral:	50 mg tablet
Netilmicin	Inj.:	50 mg/mL, 2 mL ampule (IM,IV) (as sulfate)
Phenoxymethylpenicillin (penicillin V)	Oral:	250 mg/5 mL granules/powder for syrup/suspension, 30 mL (as potassium salt)
Pyrazinamide	Oral:	500 mg capsule
Quinine	Inj.:	300 mg/mL, 1 mL vial (IV) (as dihydrochloride) 300 mg/mL, 2 mL vial/ampule (IV) (as dihydrochloride)
Ritonavir	Oral:	80 mg/mL solution, 750 mL
Zalcitabine	Oral:	750 mcg tablet
Zidovudine	Oral:	100 mg capsule
Section 5.0 CARDIOVASCULAR DRUGS		
Captopril	Oral	12.5 mg tablet
Furosemide	Oral	30 mg SR capsule
Glyceryl Trinitrate (nitroglycerine)	Inj.	5mg/mL, 5mL vial (IV infusion) (only for ustable angina) (1)
Isosorbide Dinitrate	Sublingual	2.5 mg tablet
Isosorbide - 5 - Mononitrate	Oral	30 mg SR capsule 120 mg SR capsule
Metoprolol (B) (Cardio selective / no ISA)	Oral	200 mg tablet (as succinate)
Nifedipine	Oral	5 mg tablet 10 mg tablet 50 mg CR tablet
Propranolol (B) (Non-cardio-selective/ no ISA)	Oral	40 mg SR capsule (as hydrochloride) 80 mg SR capsule (as hydrochloride)
Prazosin	Oral	2 mg tablet (as hydrochloride)
Reserpine	Oral	250 mcg tablet
Verapamil (2,B)	Oral	80 mg CR/SR tablet/capsule (as hydrochloride) (for maintenance therapy) 120 mg SR tablet/capsule (as hydrochloride) (for maintenance therapy) 120 mg CR tablet (as hydrochloride) (for maintenance therapy) 180 mg CR/SR capsule (as hydrochloride) (for maintenance therapy) 180 mg CR tablet (as hydrochloride) (for maintenance therapy) 240 mg SR capsule (as hydrochloride) (for maintenance therapy) 240 mg CR tablet (as hydrochloride) (for maintenance therapy)
Section 6.0 DIURETICS		
Furosemide	Oral	30 mg SR capsule
-Nothing follows-		

ANNEX 3

Drugs Delisted from PhilHealth Positive List
NON-COMPENSABLE POSITIVE LIST DRUGS (by January 1, 2004)

GENERIC NAME	ROUTE	PREPARATION
A. Drugs Indicated for Hypertension		
Benazepril	Oral:	5 mg, 10 mg tablet
Cilazapril	Oral:	1 mg, 2.5 mg, 5 mg tablet
Doxazosin	Oral:	1 mg, 2 mg, 4 mg tablet
Isradipine	Oral:	2.5 mg, 5 mg tablet or capsule
Lacidipine	Oral:	2 mg, 4 mg tablet
Manidipine	Oral:	10 mg, 20 mg tablet
Perindopril	Oral:	2 mg, 4 mg tablet
Quinapril	Oral:	5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg tablet
Ramipril	Oral:	1.25 mg, 2.5 mg, 5 mg tablet
Delapril	Oral:	15 mg, 30 mg tablet
Lisinopril	Oral:	5 mg 10 mg, 20 mg tablet
Carteolol	Oral:	5 mg tablet
Oxprenolol	Oral:	80 mg, 160 mg tablet, SR Divitabs
Pindolol	Oral:	5 mg tablet
Guanfacine	Oral:	1 mg tablet
Nitrendipine	Oral:	10 mg, 20 mg tablet
B Drug Indicated for Urinary Tract Infection		
Lomefloxacin	Oral:	400 mg tablet
Pefloxacin		400 mg tablet
C. Drugs Indicated for Pneumonia		
Cefamandole	Inj.:	500 mg, 1 g vial
Cefoperazone	Inj.:	500 mg, 1 g vial
Cefotiam	Inj.:	500 mg, 1 g vial
Cefpirome	Inj.:	1 g, 2 g vial
Co-amoxyclav	Inj.:	300 mg, 600 mg, 1.2 g vial
Cefprozil	Oral:	250 mg, 500 mg tablet
Ceftibuten	Oral:	200 mg, 400 mg capsule
Ceftizoxime	Inj.:	500 mg, 1 g vial
Dirithromycin	Oral:	250 mg tablet
Levofloxacin	Oral:	250 mg, 500 mg tablet
Roxithromycin	Oral:	
Sultamicillin	Oral:	375 mg tablet
Cefetamet	Oral:	250 mg, 500 mg tablet
Cefaclor	Oral:	250 mg, 500 mg pulvule; 375 mg, 750 mg tablet
-Nothing follows-		

(PDI – November 26, 2003)

Café Puro
1st Philippine Open

A COLLECTION of former world pool champions, including Filipino billiard superstar Efren "Bata" Reyes, will clash in the Café Puro 1st Philippine Open Invitational 9-Ball Championship starting today, Nov. 26 at the Octagon Hall, 4th level of the Robinsons Galleria in Mandaluyong. Reyes, along with Fellow Filipino former champions Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Alex Pagulayan, leads the 42-man Philippine squad that also includes Frennie Reyes, Bata's 19-year-old son who makes his debut as a pro. The event will see six other former world champions in a tournament that has drawn a record 76 players from 10 countries. These include Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, Earl Strickland of the United States, and Mika Immonen of Finland. The event, sponsored by Café Puro and presented by Puyat Sports headed by sportsman-businessmen Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and ABS-CBN, will be televised live on Studio 23.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of **SPI SOLUTIONS, INC.** (the "Corporation"), which shortened the term of its corporate existence to end on December 31, 2003 and thereby dissolving the said corporation on said date, has been approved by its Board of Directors and shareholders at duly constituted meetings both held on November 14, 2003.

All persons having claims against said corporation are requested to present same at the Corporation's principal place of business located at SPI Building, Pascor Drive, Sto. Niño, Parañaque City.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the legal dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd.) GEMMA A. SANTOS
Corporate Secretary

(PDI – November 26, December 3 & 10, 2003)

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LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS choice lots w/ view 426-5650•929-1832

Xaviervill 2 Nice Loc 17,000T /sqm Call 645-3731

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

• RAWLANDS •
Located in Sto.Nino, Lipa City Approx. 75 Ha. Property .w/ Fruit Bearing Trees. Ideal for Cattle Raising or Subd. for Small Family Farming Price: P200/m² For Details Call Sales Tel. 8160097

ZAMBALES, Fishpond 8ha.+ P10M Devlpd 0920-9112910

RESORT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

Commercial space P20T/mo. Mayon St. 7312110/89

HOUSE

MANDALUYONG

Ghills 5BrPool 120T 7247349

QUEZON CITY

T.Sora DFV QC 2BR1TB P8T 7312110 / 7312189

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

LAGUNA

P5 S.Jose Vlg. Binan 09173277878

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Studio Unit The Manhattan Square Salcedo Village Makati 0917-3277878

MANILA

APT/CONDO W/GARAGE PACO MANILA TEL 563-6296

MANDALUYONG

Wack Wack Resd'l Condo 3BR 3TB Prk • 0916-2146271

APARTMENT

LAS PINAS

Nice 2BR U/D Tel. 874-3395

MAKATI

1BR KTB 2ladys 5Th 8991321

MANILA

1BR nr P.GIL 5634007 5642878

Nr LA SALLE 9T 09195162077

MANDALUYONG

2BR w/o GARAGE 6.5T • 531-77-21

QUEZON CITY

1BR APT. CUBAO 7218051

CUBAO P3.8 LADY 9124428

ROOM & BOARD

8101 Pearl Plaza, Pearl Dr. Ortigas as low as P8T 633-5094 • 637-8101

P'QUE P150 / 12hrs 827-5345

W/AIRCON, T8 MKT 8992148

BEDSPACE

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

MAKATI nr BUENDIA Plamo 85/129/148/185m² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

OROSA ERMITA 5251339

Prime Clinic Space Nr.Mkti Med/Osp.ng Makati • Tel. 811-8218/20 •

MALATE OFFICES 526-8048

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSN ORS OFW 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

IBM PLAZA EASTWOOD LIBIS QC 0917-8133010

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

1ST CLASS OFC LOC.
Prime Quezon City
Complete Amenities
Ready for Occupancy!
32-47m² 437-1549 421-3105
0919-7894012/0917-6688274

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

Looking for Farm in Tanay Rizal, 4has. 0920-9112910

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

'99 Civic A/T LXi Rush 8950971

MAZDA

RUSH! 1997 Mazda 323 Familia GLi Green Call 631-9954 from 6-10PM

OTHER CAR BRANDS

PAJERO LAND CRUISER SURF TROOPER TERRANO DELICA TOWN-LITE ACE SPACE GEAR SERENA ETC A1 W/WARRANTY FINANCE TRADE IN OK 6328659

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CHIPEST IN TOWN Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Hi-Ace • 637-7396

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

★Vans Coaster Bus 422-9296

CARS, VAN T9273453

L300 ADV. 741-1356

MB-100 7415897

STAREX 12 seater 7318549

Van 0917-8143792 • 6421840

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% CARLOAN 952-2510

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/o Taking Car 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 826-7840

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLANS 71377284

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/A'CON etc 7325865

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
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Fund-Raising/Promotion Events will enjoy:
- Easy Implementation
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- High Yield

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FOR DEMO Text 0917-964-4835 or Call 02-887-4435

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

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ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
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7220433 • 4123543

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Stable Company needs two(2) experienced salesman, male, 30 to 50 years old, speak fluent English, good sales presentation skills. We provide leads, salary & commissions. Fax resume to 892-9069

FEMALE

F-ESCORT • 0916-4044479

SALES PROMO GIRLS White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272890

SALESLADY, Qualifications: 18-22yrs 5'2Ht. single college level 721-1168, 724-9328 or 30

MALE/FEMALE

OFC. MKTG.STAFF 18-45yrs old col. level/grad 9134470 Marlene

COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
Pasay City
ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY
Pursuant to Mandate of R.A. 7041 One (1) LSA II (Clerk) Item No. 87 SG 10-1 Q.S> Completion of two (2) years in college, one (1) yr. relevant experience, four (4) hours of relevant training and Career Service Subprofessional eligibility. Send Comprehensive Resume' with 2x2 colored picture to: Commission on Appointments, 6F PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City

Direct Hire Ofc Staff/Mktg 18-50 Hi-Salary Betty 4385743

DIRECT HIRE OFC MKTG STAFF 18-45yo w/w/o exp Coll grad/ugrad T-4387472 Ms Olga

DRVIER, 10yrs exp.'matic stay -in brgy police clearance married 724-9328 or 30. 721-1168

JOB HIRING 09167054572 AINA

Ofc Mktg Staff 20-45 Col level /grad w/ w/o exp ASAP 9134470 Ms. Maan

OFC MKTNG STF 09208062187

OFC/MKTG STF 0920-3562010

WANTED: Accountant Computer Literate FINE FANCY Bldg B Basement SM Megamall

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate with Absolute Sale

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GREGORIO G. CARZON and JUANA M. CARZON has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs before Notary Public LEONARDO C. AGUILAR, JR. as per Doc. No. 19, Page No. 3, Book No.9 Series of 2003.
PDI-Nov.26, Dec.3&10, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Gorgonio A. Monte, consisting of conjugal share over Transfer Certificate of Title No. 71970, a real property consisting of a residential building and lot located at Talon 3, Las Pinas City, MM, was adjudicated to his Surviving spouse Mira Tulsidas-Monte and children Gabriel Gobind, Percival Prakash and Dheena Mae Monte by means of a public document executed on Nov. 7, 1994 and ratified before Atty. Federico Florendo Jr., Notary Public in Pasay City MM and entered into his Notarial Registry as Doc. No. 30; Page No. 7; Book No. 8, Series of 1994.
PDI-Nov. 26, Dec. 3 & 10, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estates of the late ROSALINA ESTABILLO NAREDO and ULPIANO NILO NAREDO, consisting of their conjugal share over two real estate properties and improvements located at #79 Interior Kamias Quezon City and #20 Mapagmahal Street, referred as Property Index nos: 93125 (and 93125-A) and 9-2797 (9-2797-1001), respectively, and were adjudicated to his surviving heirs namely, Barbara Mae Naredo-Dacanay, Editha Naredo, Evangelina C. Naredo and Olive Joy C. Naredo by means of public document executed on Nov. 10, 2003 and ratified before Atty. Alfonso B. Pajimna, Notary public for and in Quezon City, Metro Manila, and entered into his Notarial Registry as Doc. No. 461; Page No. 94; Book No. 481; Series of 2003.
(PDI-Nov. 12, 19 & 26, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

•OWN UR LIFE• travelandwork fromhome.com 8531008 09178901851

HOME BASED Business 8376068

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW Consign 09167940002

SINGAPOREAN looking for partners to develop new industry with patented technology 0927-4936266

SMART E-LOAD EASIEST WAY GLOBE AUTO LOAD 7252311

Work By Phone, Earn Up 2 P30T/month! Female, 23&up! 892-7828

XMASLITES 3SETS/P100 Trees Repelites Etc. 532-3909

DIRECT SALE

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN TRMS MUST B EMPLYD 9842865

LIVE NEAR & ENJOY the PLEASURES of a nearby RESORT for only PhP 660,000 (neg)!

FOR SALE! PRIME 240 SQM. RESIDENTIAL LOT BESIDE GROTTO VISTA (Novaliches). Please call Vicky 5270071 (office hours).

>> The World's First for the World-Class Filipino Seafarers >>

TQ3 MARINE VISA CARD, YOUR RELIABLE PARTNER

Global Acceptance

Powered by VISA, the TQ3 Marine Card is accepted in 13 million establishments and 275 countries worldwide.

Installment Flexibility

Convert any cash or card purchase into installment instantly...anytime, anywhere! Choose to pay in 3, 6, 12 or 24 months and enjoy low interests monthly.

Medical and Dental Benefits

You and your family will enjoy FREE medical or dental benefits with only P25,000.00 worth of TQ3 Marine Card spending. But because its TQ3, you can choose to have both by accumulating P50,000 in TQ3 card spending in a membership year.

Value Grocer

Get rewarded on your supermarket spending all year round! Accumulate P5,000 worth of supermarket spending charged to your TQ3 Marine Card and it automatically earns you special privileges.

Quick Bills Facility

Free yourself from life's hassles. Conveniently pay your utility bills with the QUICK Bills Facility. With this new hassle-free facility, your utility bills will be automatically charged to your TQ3 Marine Card.

Cash Advance

Get cash advances of up to 30% of your credit limit. You can avail of this service at any ATM with the Visa Plus and/or Cirrus logo by using your Cash Advance Personal Identification Number (PIN) which will be sent to you via mail after you have activated your TQ3 Marine Card.

AIG Credit Cards
TQ3 TRAVEL SOLUTIONS
VISA

TQ3 Marine VISA Card Memorandum of Agreement Signing. Present during the MOA signing are (from left) Virginia Balagtas, EVP & CEO of TQ3 Philippines, Annie O. Umali, General Manager AIG Credit Cards, J. Antonio Romulo, CBM of Visa International and Angelito Villanueva, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, TQ3 Philippines.

TQ3 Travel Plus Program

The TQ3 Travel Plus Card is your passport to a whole world of travel perks and privileges. This is the country's first and only versatile global travel card that gives you rewards and privileges to make travelling a truly enjoyable experience. You can get this at 50% off the regular rate and pamper yourself with travel convenience, security, savings, and guaranteed satisfaction.

Keep your most important possessions close at hand.

Introducing the TQ3 Marine Visa Card.

TQ3 MARINE
VISA

As a seaman, you spend valuable time away from your family. Now a card specially designed to let you relax, knowing you and your family will always be financially secure. Get the best of the world's leading brands as TQ3 Marine Visa Card gives financial flexibility and security for you and your family, too.

- **Worry-free travel especially when you need to spend for hotel accommodation, food, and even avail of cash advances due to unforeseen travel delays and other hassles.**
- **Free transferable medical and dental privileges, within the Philippines.**
- **Supplementary cards are automatically provided to the family.**
- **Pay school fees and utilities or purchase appliances, grocery items, etc. at low monthly installments.**
- **Invest a minimum of P15,000.00 in Philam Bond Fund of the Philam Asset Management, Inc. and avail of a credit line on your TQ3 Marine Visa Card of up to 70% of your deposit.**

For more information about the TQ3 Marine Visa Card, call 812-1978/843-33-64 (effective until Nov.30 only) or 885-70-07 / 885-79-49 (operational starting Dec.1) or 0917-886-3342 or email us at tq3visa@tq3ph.com.ph

TQ3 Marine Regional Center, 26/F Yuchengco Tower RCBC Plaza. 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1200 Philippines.

TQ3 operates in 1600 locations in 70 countries world-wide.

www.tq3ph.com.ph

VISA
All it takes.

AIG Credit Cards

PHILAM ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC.

TQ3 TRAVEL SOLUTIONS

>>

strategyinnovationperformance

TQ3 TRAVEL SOLUTIONS
Global Headquarters
Bremen, Germany

MESSAGE

I am pleased to inform you that a major event will unfold this November with the exciting launch of the TQ3 Marine Regional Center (MRC) and the TQ3 Marine Visa card, the world's first marine travel credit card. The TQ3 MRC will serve as the hub to service the global marine travel requirements of all our valued TQ3 Marine partners. One of the features of this innovative base is its 24/7 call center facility, which sets a new trend and demonstrates how TQ3 Marine Travel Solutions stands by its commitment to ensure efficient and cost effective transport of ship's crew and offshore workers by providing them with the best available service. Launching the TQ3 MRC reaffirms our confidence in the Philippines' status as the manning capital of the world where Filipinos corner more than 25% of the total seaman traffic.

This is also an auspicious occasion as the TQ3 Marine credit card is being launched powered by Visa International. The advent of the TQ3 Marine Visa Card is a pioneering initiative by TQ3 Philippines which seeks to empower all Filipino seamen by providing them, their spouses and loved ones financial flexibility, convenience, security and investment opportunities; and at the same time enhance their stature in the international marine scene comparable to their counterparts abroad.

We are very much looking forward to this event and to the many opportunities it will afford the marine travel industry. TQ3 Travel Solutions also looks forward to offering continued global marine travel service that is second to none!

MARC HILDEBRAND
Global CEO

TQ3 TRAVEL SOLUTIONS
Philippines

MESSAGE

From a local travel agency, North Star International Travel has proudly evolved into a global travel management company, thanks to our partnership with TQ3 Travel Solutions. Thus, North Star International is now known as TQ3 Travel Solutions – Philippines. And we are proud to say that we are still a 100 % Filipino-owned corporation.

As a reliable name in travel, TQ3 Travel Solutions boasts of having a system-wide revenue in excess of $9 billion and operates 1,600 locations in over 70 countries. It is a quality provider of innovative end-to-end travel expense management to companies worldwide, owned by TUI AG of Hanover, Germany and Maritz Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri.

Today, we once again forge ties with global giants like VISA and AIG (American International Group) to come up with an innovative product that's a first in the world. This is our way of showing our wholehearted gratitude to our valued clients particularly our Filipino seafarers, the manning and crewing companies, including manning organizations and affiliate groups like the seamen's wives association, who have supported us in all our endeavors.

VIRGINIA D. BALAGTAS
Executive Vice President & CEO

AIG Credit Cards

MESSAGE

For nearly three decades, the Filipinos have been the preferred choice by the world's leading employers in just about every field because of our ability, flexibility, hard work, resourcefulness, and cultural adaptability. Our wealth is far greater than any country could boast of, our wealth, is our PEOPLE!

And its about time, we give them the well-deserved recognition and show them how we can further support their needs during times when help is needed. A good source of support is to provide them with basic financial services such as loans, insurances, investments, and credit card services.

As such, AIG Credit Cards formally announces our contribution in uplifting the welfare of our Filipino seafarers. AIG, known as one of the most innovative and fast growing credit card companies in the country today, together with TQ3 Travel Solutions, one of the recognized leaders in global travel management, joined forces with Visa International and Philam Asset Management to bring you the FIRST AND ONLY "TQ3 Marine Card". Through the collaborative efforts of the companies involved, we aim to provide the seafarers and professionals a unique and distinct card product that will offer them financial flexibility and investment opportunities. Through the secured TQ3 Marine Card, the seafarers and their family members can now experience the benefits and convenience of a credit card and earn on their investment at the same time.

Mabuhay ang mga Bagong Bayani ng Pilipinas!

Annie O. Umali

ANNIE O. UMALI
General Manager

VISA
All it takes.

MESSAGE

Visa is proud to present the TQ3 Marine Visa Card, Visa's latest partnership with AIG Credit Card Company and TQ3 Travel Solutions.

TQ3 Marine Visa Card is the first ever secured co-branded credit card in the Philippines, tailor-made to serve the payment needs of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), particularly the seafarers and their dependents in the Philippines.

There are over 1.3 million seafarers around the world, 25 percent of whom are Filipinos. Visa is proud to be pioneering the TQ3 Marine Visa Card in the Philippines, and to provide the flexibility and convenience of Visa payment cards to this sizeable and important part of the country's workforce.

As the leading payment card in the world, Visa will continue to develop innovative and superior payment products to consumers in the Philippines.

We at Visa congratulate TQ3 Travel Solutions and AIG Credit Card for the launch of the TQ3 Marine Visa Card and wish our partners every success.

JAMES LIM
Director for Classic & Co-Brand
Visa International, Asia Pacific

ADVT.

WANTED PROPERTY for IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

- Metro Manila
- 7,000 sq.m. min. to 1-2 has.
- Along major road, preferably crossroad
- High pedestrian & vehicular traffic
- Within densely populated area
- Long-term lease of 15 to 20 years

Please submit:

- Lot and vicinity map
- Lease rate offer

To:

Ms. Karen Villanueva
P.O. Box No. 465
Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City
1109

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BICOL UNIVERSITY
Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Bicol University, Legazpi City hereby invites all interested Health Care Providers to pre-qualify for the bidding of Health Care Services for the University for Calendar Year 2003 with an approved budget of P3,000,000.00.
2. Deadline for submission of letter of intent will be on **December 5, 2003.** Terms of Reference (TOR), Instruction to bidders, Registration and Eligibility Requirements can be obtained at the Bicol University, Legal Office, Main Campus, Legazpi City starting **November 21, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. Deadline of submission of registration and eligibility requirements is on **December 8, 2003.**
3. Eligible bidder are requested to attend a Pre-bidding Conference on **December 11, 2003** at 9:00 a.m., at the Bicol University Board Room, General Administration Building, Main Campus, Legazpi City.
4. Submission of Bids
   Bidding will be on **December 17, 2003** at the Bicol University Board Room, General Administration Building, Main Campus, Legazpi City.
5. For further information, please call the Bicol University Legal Office at telephone number (052)-8217958.
6. The Bicol University reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any required formality in the bids received and to accept those considered advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **SUSANA C. CABREDO**
SUC President IV

(PDI - Nov. 19 & 26, 2003)

---

4 HECTARES INDUST'L/COMM'L LOT FOR SALE/LEASE

Located at Palacio Real Brgy.
Makiling Calamba, Laguna
PriceNegotiable/Accepts long-term lease
Direct Buyers/Brokers Welcome
Contact Myrna/Sam 8763106/108

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ILIGAN
Office of the City Mayor
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for labor and materials, (brand new, and genuine spare parts) of the under chassis & engine, consumables and other incidentals necessary for the complete repair/rehabilitation and repainting of five (5) units 10 Wheelers Hongyan Dumptrucks NTC 200 Horse Power, 6 in line Cylinder, diesel fed engine bearing Plate Nos:

Hongyan Dumptruck 11 SDW-732
Hongyan Dumptruck 12 SDW-737
Hongyan Dumptruck 13 SDW-736
Hongyan Dumptruck 16 SDW-735
Hongyan Dumptruck 17 SDW-731

located at the City Engineer' Office, City of Iligan, under the following terms & conditions:

1.) Contractor shall assess the scope of supply and extent of repair/replacement parts and rehabilitation of each unit based on their actual inspection;
2.) Freight, handling, arrastre, wharfage and auxiliary costs, as may be required, shall be borne by the Contractor;
3.) Units shall be restored to tiptop running condition;
4.) Painting materials shall be automotive color caterpillar yellow, black chassis,
5.) One year warranty for the equipment parts and will commence upon delivery to City Engineer's Office Compound;
6.) Repair/rehabilitation shall be completed in (6) six months time for the five (5) units; and
7.) Quotation shall be in Philippine currency with itemized breakdown for each dumptruck unit specifying the respective scope of repair & supply of original parts

will be received in the Office of the City General Services Officer, Iligan City, until Dec. 9, 2003 at 9:00 o'clock AM at which time and place same will be publicly opened to determine the lowest complying and most advantageous bid.

All bids must comply with the provisions of COA Circular No 92-386 and accompanied by a Bidder's bond equal to at least 5% of the total bid price but not to exceed TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) per bid proposal. Prospective bidders in need for further information may forward their inquiry to:

The City General Services Officer
City Hall, Iligan City
Tel. Nos.: (063) 221-4340 or
(063) 516-759

All bids must be in Philippine currency. Bids not in Philippine currency will be disqualified.

The City Government of Iligan neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The right is further reserved, as the best interest of the City Government of Iligan may require, to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids received, without assigning any reasons.

(Sgd) FRANKLIN M. QUIJANO
City Mayor

(PDI—Nov. 24, 25 & 26, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ILIGAN
Office of the City Mayor
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the delivery of the following:

2 units - Brand New Ten (10) Wheelers Dumptruck 6x4 Forward Control Japan, Europe or U.S. made or equivalent with the following specifications

1.) Left hand drive, power steering
2.) Ten (10) cubic meter dumpbox Capacity, gross vehicle weight 25,000Kg (minimum)
3.) 280 Horsepower (minimum) for turbo charged engine or 320 Horse power (minimum) for naturally aspirated engine
4.) Diesel fed engine, direct injection, water cooled six (6) cylinder (minimum) for inline engine or eight (8) cylinder (minimum) for V-type engine
5.) Standard tools, accessories parts book, manual for operation and maintenance
6.) One year warranty or 100,000 Kilometers which ever come first
7.) Free filters or warranty servicing period

will be received in the Office of the City General Services Officer, Iligan City, until Dec. 9, 2003 at 9:00 o'clock AM at which time and place same will be publicly opened to determine the lowest complying and most advantageous bid

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(Sgd.) FRANKLIN M. QUIJANO
City Mayor

(PDI—Nov. 24, 25 & 26, 2003)

POEA

24-HR HOTLINES

722-1144
722-1155

REVOCATION OF GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

That I, FRANCISCA V. PENARANDA, of legal age, residing at 616 N. Meyler St., San Pedro, California, U.S.A. 90731, after duly sworn to according to law, deposes and say that

a) That I am revoking the General Power of Attorney (With Durable Provision) of Mrs. Anastacia B. Villamor, residing at Banezville I, Apitong, Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines, notarized by Notary Public Patrick Di Bernardo last May 15, 2000 and acknowledged by Philippine Consul Roy B. Ecraela under Official Receipt No. 9174, Service No. 16476, Doc. No. 9082, Page No. 182, Series of 2000

b) That I am attaching a Xeroxed copy of said copy of the General Power of Attorney (With Durable Provision) including the acknowledgement signed by the Philippines Consul Roy B. Ecraela

c) That the purpose of this revocation of General Power of Attorney of Mrs. Anastacia B. Villamor is to stop her from using said authority given to her in dealing with any of the Real Estate Transactions, Tangible Personal Property Transactions; Bond, Share and Commodity Transactions, Banking Transactions, Business Operating Transactions, Insurance Transactions, Claims and Litigations, Records Reports and Statement and the Durable Provision.

PRINCIPAL FURTHER SAYETH NONE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affix my signature this 22 day of July 2003 at California, USA.

FRANCISCA V. PENARANDA
PRINCIPAL

Signed in the presence of:

Witness

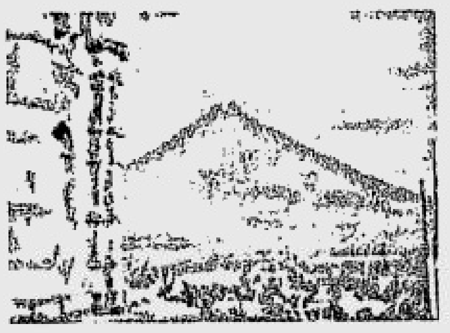
Witness

(PDI—Nov. 19, 26 & Dec. 3, 2003)

PICPA plus

PEOPLE at WORK LIVE! = OPTIMUM LEARNING

An equation you can solve in Bicol



Albay Astrodome

Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

THE 57TH PICPA ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
Nov. 26 - 29, 2003 Legazpi City, Albay

PICPA PARTNER IN PROGRESS

TO REGISTER, contact DR. RUFO R. MENDOZA, Chair, Annual National Convention at PICPA Building, 700 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, tel. no. 723-0691 to 95, fax no. 723-6305, email picpa@qinet.net.

Nov. 26 (Wednesday) - Motorcade, Courtesy Call to Governor and Mayor, Annual Planning Conference, Opening of Fair and Exhibits, Sportsfest, Reunion of PICPA National Officers and Directors

Nov. 27 (Thursday) - Mass, Opening Ceremonies with Hon. Raul S. Roco, former Senator of the Republic of the Philippines, as Keynote Speaker, Luncheon Meeting with Senator Ralph G. Recto and Mayor Vilma Santos Recto as Guest Speakers, People at Work Live! Seminar Series, Educators' Forum: "Issues and Concerns that Affect the Accounting Profession" with Board of Accountancy Chairman Atty. Eugene T. Mateo, ASC Interpretation Committee Chairman David L. Balangue, Legislation and By-Laws Chairman Atty. Abelardo T. Domondon, PICPA Education Sector Chair Dean Ester F. Ledesma as speakers.

Nov. 28 (Friday) - Technical Session 2: "Accounting.Net (e Procurement)" with Hon. Emilia T. Boncodin (Secretary, Department of Budget and Management), Carol E. Carreon (Vice-Chair, Bayan Trade Dotcom, Inc.) as speakers, Technical Session 3: "Financial Instruments (IAS 32 and 39)" with Mike R. Aguilar (Head of Global Market, Standard Chartered), Wilson P. Tan (Partner, SGV&Co.) as speakers, Luncheon Meeting with Hon. Guillermo N. Carague (Chairman, Commission on Audit) as speaker, Technical Session 4 "Raising the Bar of Excellence for a Better Philippines" with Sonny B. Coloma (Professor, Asian Institute of Management), Guillermo M. Luz (Executive Director, Makati Business Club), Victoria P. Garchitorena (President, Ayala Foundations) Edward I. Fereira (President, Management Association of the Philippines) as speakers and Atty. Oscar M. Orbos (Former Governor, Province of Pangasinan) and Solita Monsod (GMA 7 TV Host) as moderators, Annual Business Meeting, Closing Plenary Session, Mayor's Night, Chapter/Regional Presentations

Nov. 29 (Saturday) - City/Provincial Tours

Co-Organizers:

PICPA SOUTHERN LUZON CHAPTERS: Laguna, Albay, Batangas, Catanduanes, CamarinesNorte, Camarines Sur, Cavite, IRRI/UPLB, Lipa City, Masbate, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Quezon Province, San Pablo City and Sorsogon

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PEOPLE AT WORK *LIVE!* SEMINAR SERIES
Nov. 27, 2003 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Albay Astrodome, Legazpi City, Albay.

Session 1: Developing and Discovering Your Passion in Life by *Regina Galang Reyes, Philippine Daily Inquirer's People at Work Editor*; **Session 2: Getting Ahead at Work Without Leaving Your Family Behind** by *An Mercado Alcantara, ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. Deputy Editorial Director*; **Session 3: Creativity for Continuous Competitiveness** by *Teresa Reyes Tunay, Blue Collar Magazine Editor-in-Chief**

Reyes

Alcantara

Tunay

The People at Work Live! Seminar Series is part of the convention and also open to the public. To register for the seminar series, contact the PICPA Albay Chapter - Abner Ty, tel. no. (052) 820-8477, (052) 481-1253, fax no. (052) 820-6280; PICPA Laguna Chapter - Grace Padlan, telefax no. (632) 868-7662; Sally Pangilinan, tel. no. (632) 847-5759; Lina Dilao, tel. no. (632) 897-4386 local 2151.

REGISTRATION FEE PER SESSION: Regular ticket P300; Special ticket for teachers and gov't. employees P200; Student ticket P100. Includes handouts and certificate of completion.

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Cipriana Solas Adan

of Gasan, Marinduque and Quezon City

Peacefully joined her Creator, her loving husband ***Fidel Adan*** *and her daughter* ***Fely Adan Pascoguin*** *at 3:00 a.m. on November 24, 2003 at the age of 93.*

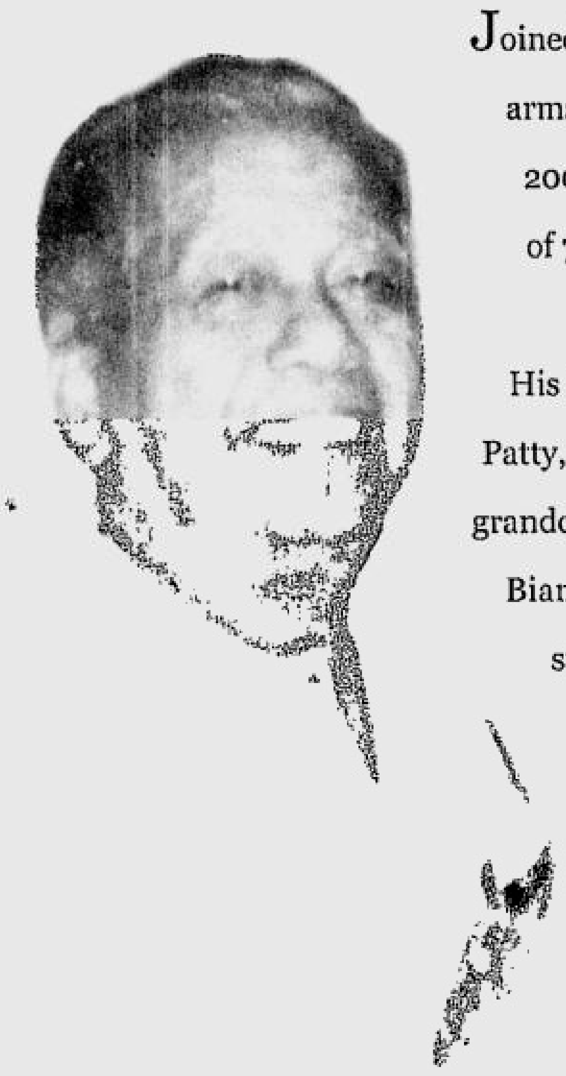
Her loving children **Baby** and **Reno**, **Luz**, **Cely** and **Rading**, **Perla**, **Cena** and **Sam**, **Lolly** and **Arturo**, **Steve**, **Jack** and **Annie**, and **Renato** and **Medy**, grandchildren, great grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, November 28, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Oscar Mesina Ontimare

Of Dagami, Leyte



Joined his beloved wife and into the arms of his Creator on November 24, 2003 at the FEU Hospital at the age of 78.

His loving children Ted, Jovit and Patty, his son-in-law Gigi dela Torre, grandchildren Erico, Christian, Ysabel, Bianca and Miguel request his surviving relatives and friends, his co-workers at the Citizen's Legal Assistance Office, neighbors at Blue Ridge and those whose lives he has touched one way or the other as a LAWYER to pray for his repose.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe and will be interred in Loyola Memorial, Marikina tomorrow, Thursday, November 27, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass in Guadalupe.

The Bereaved Family & Relatives
of the late

JOSEFA BENITEZ-TRINIDAD

wish to express their deepest gratitude to all who conveyed to them their condolences at this time of great loss.

It was deeply appreciated.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

GLORIA HIZON VILLAREAL

of Apalit, Pampanga & Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 23, 2003 at the age of 82.

Her loving husband **Julian** (†); her children and children-in-law **Joey** & **Loy**, **Grace** & **Jerry Agoncillo** (†) and **Weng**; granddaughters **Trisha** & **Bianca**; brothers and sisters **Ading** and **Neenai**, **Carding** (†) & **Katrina**, **Estring**, **Bonte**, **Perla** and **Dan Cruz**; in-laws **Choleng** & **Marin** (†), **Binong** (†) & **Toyang** (†), **Erning** & **Ester**, **Pinoy** & **Amparing** (†), **Duloy** & **Fe**, **Tonya** & **Sim** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 29, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City. Necrological services will be held at Funeraria Paz, November 28, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

We lovingly remember our dearly beloved

MARGARITA LACSON-GEMPERLE

(† November 27, 1996)
on her 7th death anniversary.

Holy Mass is being offered on Thursday, November 27, 2003 at the following churches:

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish	6:15 A.M.,
Magallanes Village, Makati City	7:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	6:00 P.M.
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City	12:15 P.M.
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel, Greenbelt, Makati City	7:15 A.M.
Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Mandaluyong City	6:00 A.M.
St. Joseph Parish, Tambo, Parañaque	6:30 A.M.
St. Joseph Parish (Bamboo Organ), Las Piñas	6:00 P.M.
St. Andrew Parish, La Huerta, Parañaque	6:00 P.M.
Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Pope John Paul II Youth Center	6:00 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.
Our Lady of Sorrows Church, F.B. Harrison, Pasay City	6:00 A.M.
Our Lady of Remedies, Malate Church	6:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Nuestra Señora de Guia, Ermita Church	6:00 P.M.
St. Jerome & Sta. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:00 A.M. 12:15 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.
St. James Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:20 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish,	6:00 A.M.
BF Homes, Parañaque City	6:45 A.M., 7:00 P.M.
Parish Church of the Resurrection	5:30 A.M.,
BF Homes, Parañaque	6:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila	7:00 A.M. & 12:00 NN
San Ildefonso Parish, Pio Del Pilar, Makati	6:00 P.M.

The family thanks friends, relatives and readers who remember her in prayer.

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ATTY. ERNESTO "ERNIE" DULCE RAMOS

January 12, 1928 – November 24, 2003

Founder of:
Western Batangas Telephone System, Inc. (WBTS)
Philippine Association of Private Telephone Companies (PAPTELCO)
Western Batangas Chamber of Commerce

His loving wife LUMING BUHAY RAMOS; children Marilla, Nonette-Jun, Mark-Beth and JB, sisters Saning, Angela, Mathy, (†)Emma, (†)Luz; grandchildren RB, Lenard, Nico, Jobe & EJ; other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His remains lie in state at the MJR Auditorium, WBTS Compound, #197 Paz St., Balayan, Batangas. Interment will be on November 28, 2003 at Balayan Catholic Cemetery after the 10 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church

Serviced by: Dulce Memorial Chapels, Inc. – Manila

PURITA GALANG GALANO

of Makati City

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 24, 2003 at the age of 59.

Her beloved husband **Alberto Galano**; children **Arleen**, **Ampy**, **Alex**, **Abet**, **Bage**, **Tuting**, **Cuyćuy**, and **Mayie**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses today, November 26 at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. and November 27 at 9 a.m. at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park. Interment will take place on the 27th of November at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches.

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2 IDENTITY
3 THE PHONE
4 CHAVIT SINGSON
5 THE WISHER
6 MAPANUKSO
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5 WRONG TURN
6 MR. SUAVE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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4 MR. SUAVE

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4 MASTER & COMMANDER

SM CITY MARILAO

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Nov. 28

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5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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8 MASTER & COMMANDER
9 MR. SUAVE
10 AKO, IKAW, SIYA

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9356749
1 ZHOU YU'S TRAIN
2 AKO, IKAW, SIYA
3 MASTER & COMMANDER
4 COLD CREEK MANOR
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7 CHAVIT SINGSON
8 MR. SUAVE
9 SCARY MOVIE 3
10 SEX SCANDAL
11 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
12 THE WISHER

SM CITY DAVAO
2976858
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2 LIBERATED
3 MR. SUAVE
4 CHAVIT SINGSON
5 THE SUSPECT
6 MASTER & COMMANDER

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4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

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11 ZHOU YU'S TRAIN
12 AKO, IKAW, SIYA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2564302
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2 CHAVIT SINGSON
3 MR. SUAVE
4 AKO, IKAW, SIYA

SM CITY ILOILO
3200422
1 BELPHEGOR
2 RESERVED
3 MR. SUAVE
4 LIBERATED
5 LOONEY TUNES
6 MASTER & COMMANDER
7 RESERVED
8 IDENTITY

SM CITY MANILA
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1 COLD CREEK MANOR
2 SCARY MOVIE 3
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 THE GRUDGE
5 LOONEY TUNES
6 MASTER & COMMANDER
7 AKO, IKAW, SIYA
8 WRONG TURN
9 MR. SUAVE
10 ZHOU YU'S TRAIN
11 THE WISHER
12 CHAVIT SINGSON

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3 RESERVED
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1 COLD CREEK MANOR
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2 LOONEY TUNES: BACK IN ACTION
10:30 FS/11:00 MF/1:00/3:00/5:10/7:00/9:00/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

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MASTER AND COMMANDER	6	WRONG TURN

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MASTER AND COMMANDER PG13 11:20. 2:00. 4:40, 7:25, 10:10	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50	LOONEY TUNES GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40

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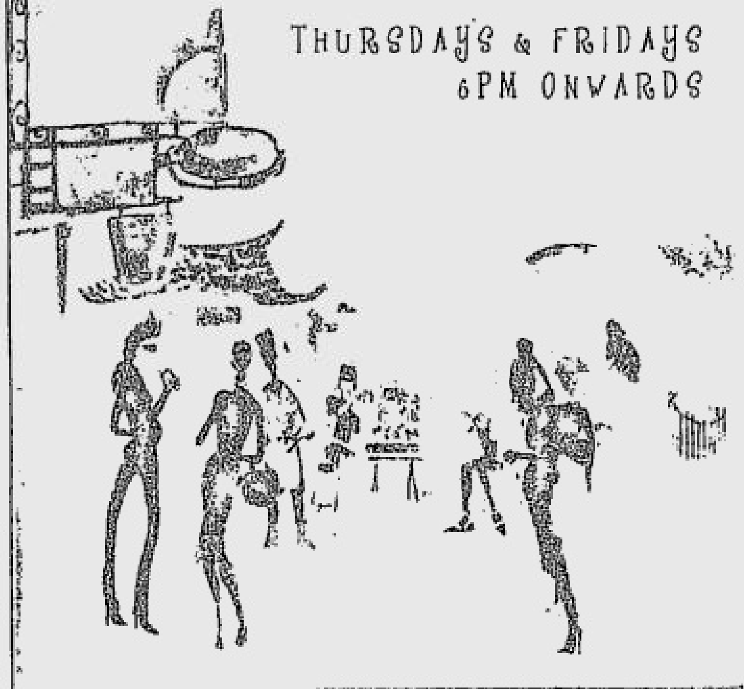

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TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SEX SCANDAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	CHAVIT SINGSON
B	AKO, IKAW, SIYA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	AKO, IKAW O SIYA
CINEMA-3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MR SUAVE
CINEMA-6	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-7	SEX SCANDAL
CINEMA-8	CHAVIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	COLD CREEK MANOR
CINEMA-12	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-14	CHAVIT
CINEMA-15	MR SUAVE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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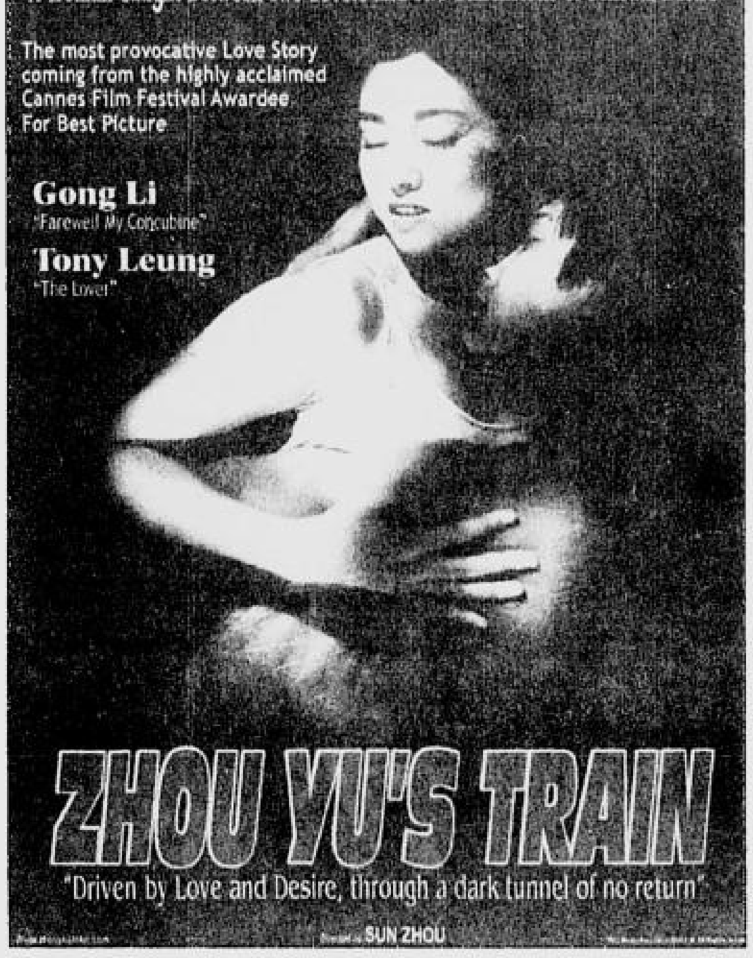

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SUN ZHOU

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MR. SUAVE	1 SCARY MOVIE 3	Art Film 1 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS COLD CREEK MANOR 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	THX 1 LOONEY TUNES
2 LOONEY TUNES	2 COLD CREEK MANOR	2 THE GRUDGE 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 LOONEY TUNES 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00	2 COLD CREEK MANOR
3 THE GRUDGE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS MASTER & COMMANDER 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 28, 29. 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	3 SCARY MOVIE 3
4 CHAVIT	4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTION		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 SCARY MOVIE 3 1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 MASTER AND COMMANDER
	5 CHAVIT		GUARANTEED SEATS MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00	5 CHAVIT
	6 LOONEY TUNES			
	7 THE GRUDGE			

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5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	LOONEY TUNES
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8	MR. SUAVE
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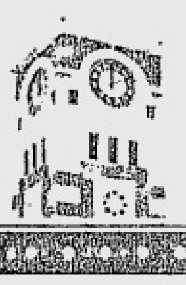

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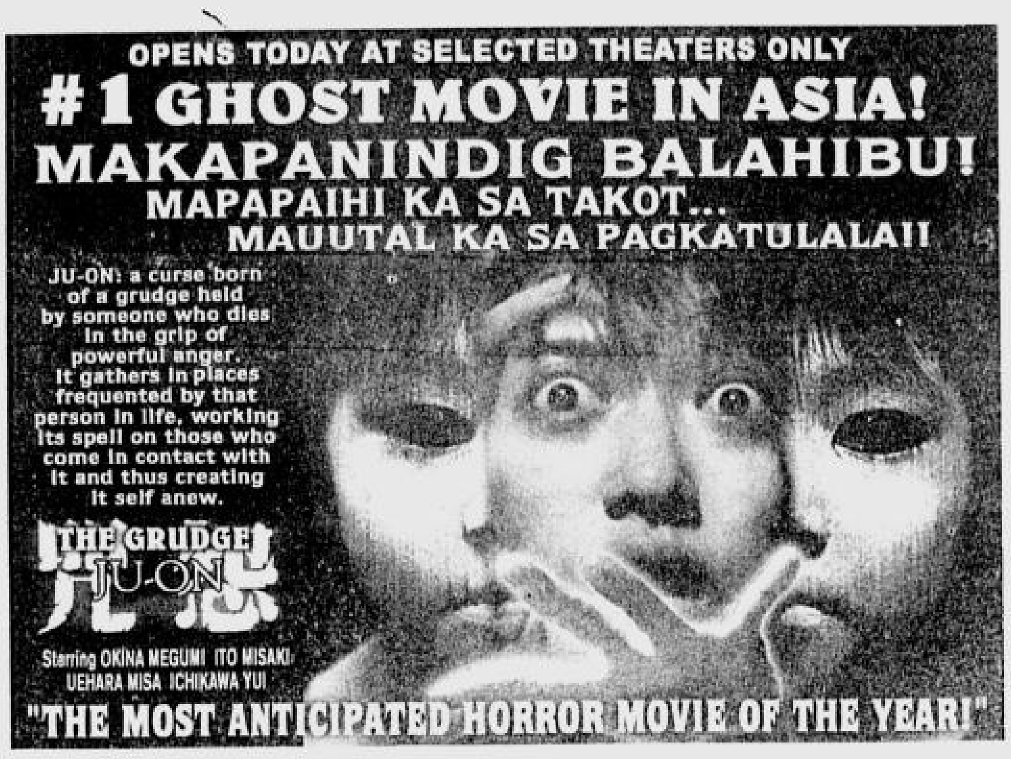

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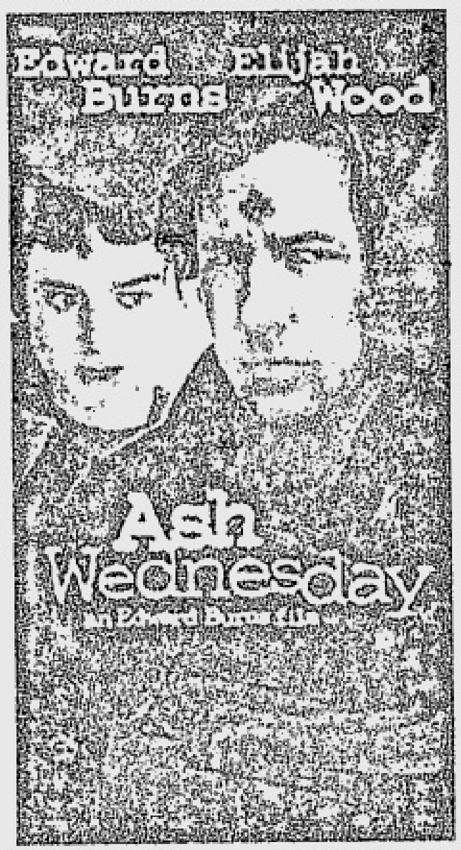

Elijah Wood *Edward Burns*
Rosario Dawson *Oliver Platt*

Ash Wednesday

Hells Kitchen. Ash Wednesday, 1980 Sean Sullivan (Elijah Wood) is killed in a vendetta Three years later. Seans brother Francis (Edward Burns) receives word that Sean may be alive. But the truth isnt always what it seems in this neighborhood where violence and betrayal are the local currency.

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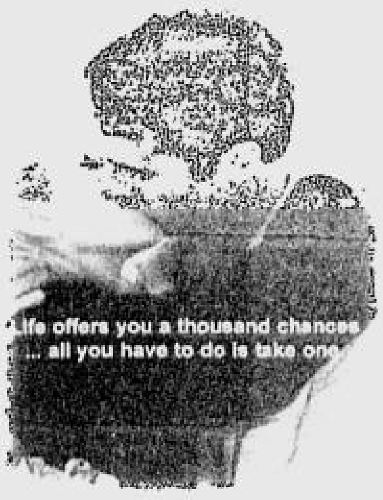

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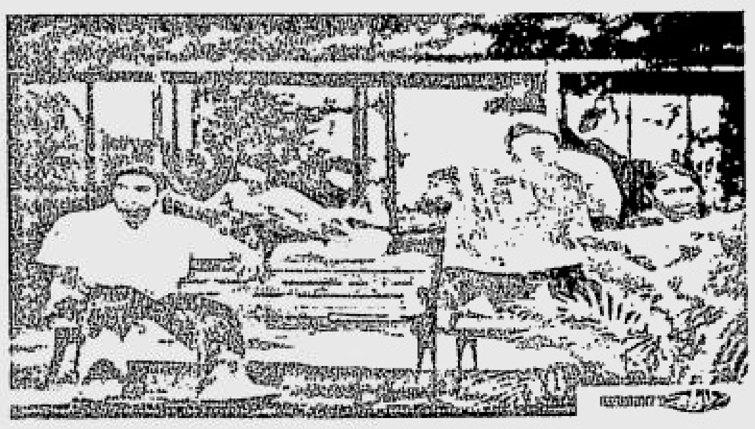

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GP

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R13

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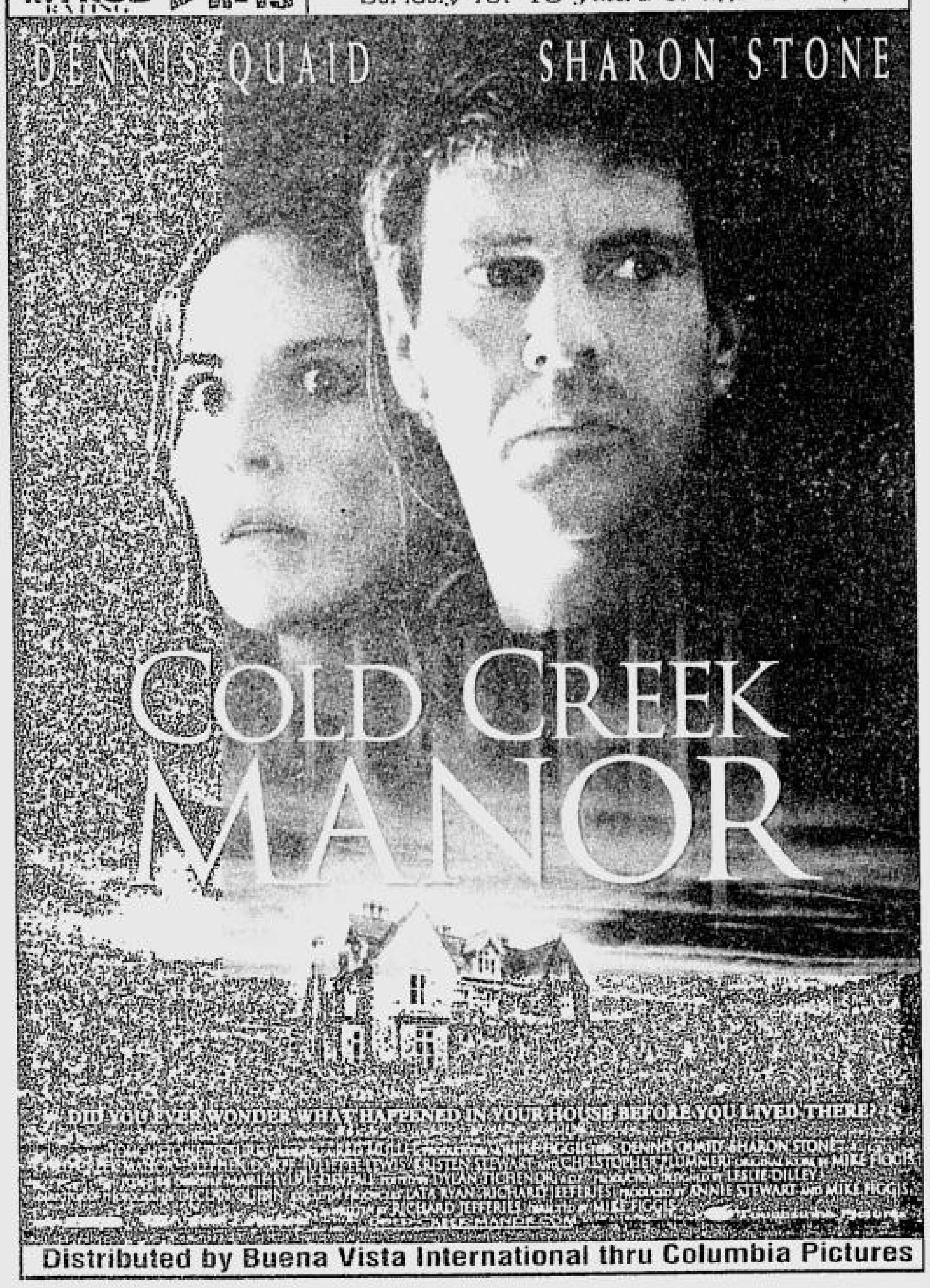

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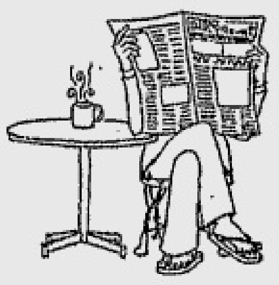

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MAGIC 89.9

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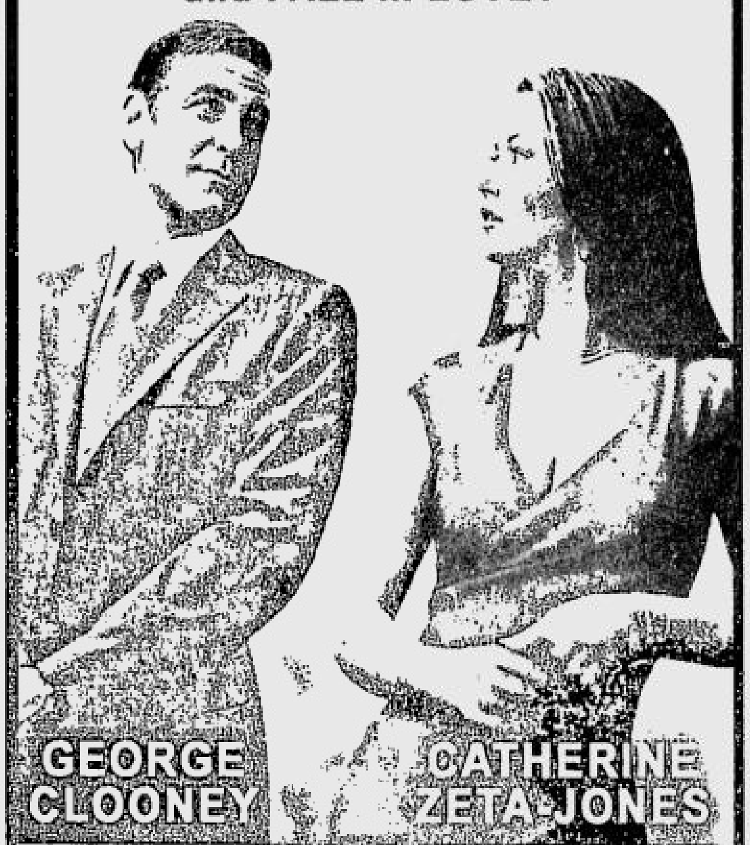
GEORGE CLOONEY
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES

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Ali 7 AKO, IKAW, O SIYA

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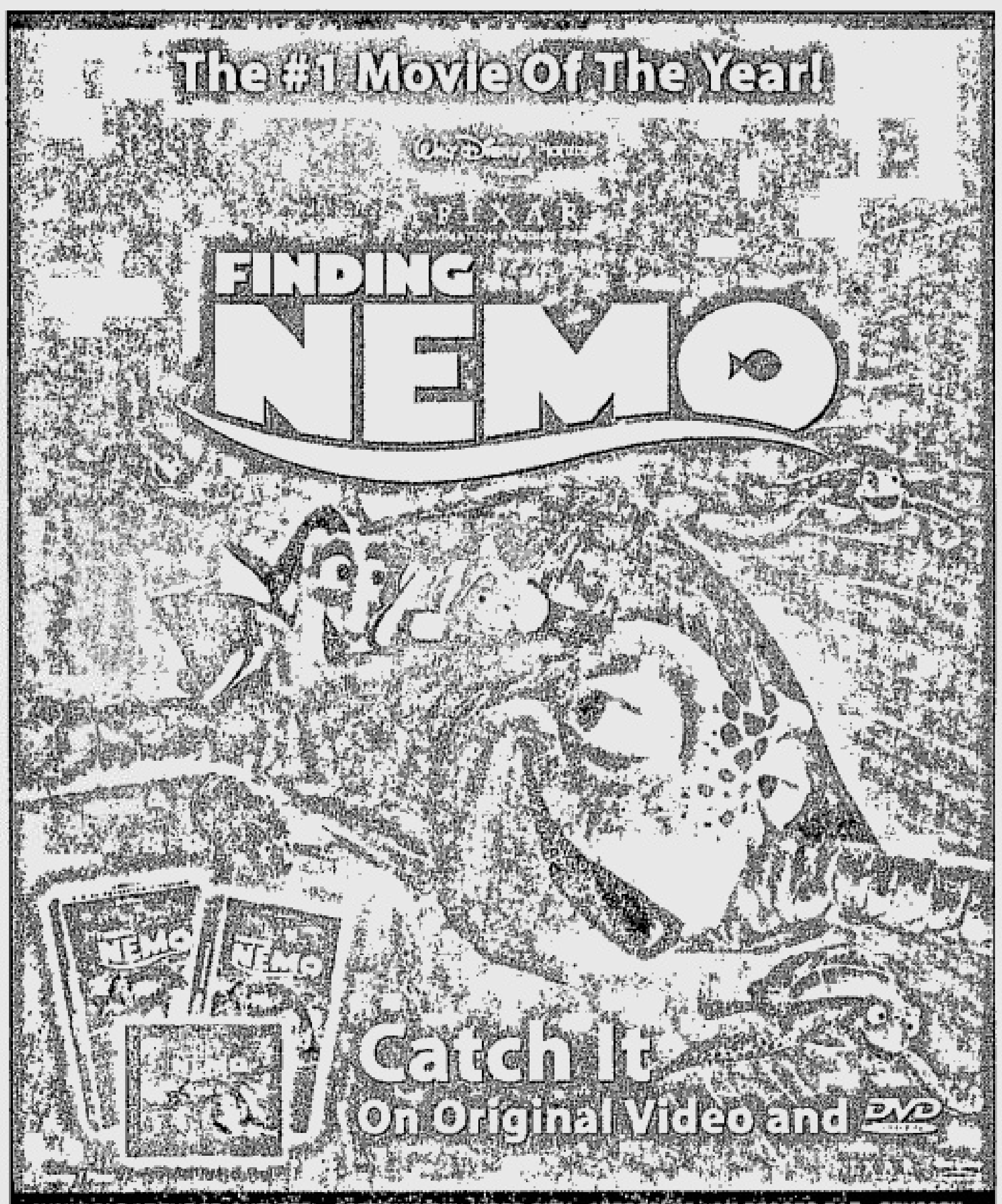
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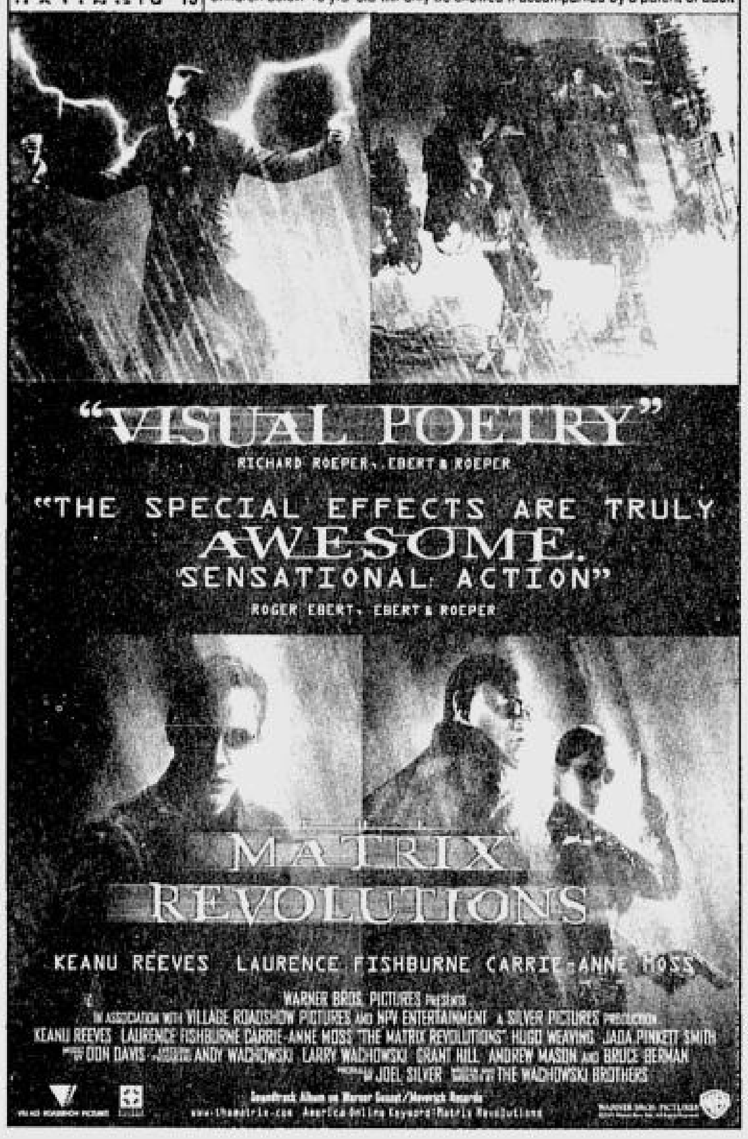
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JOEL SILVER THE WACHOWSKI BROTHERS
Soundtrack Album on Warner Sunset/Maverick Records
www.thematrix.com America Online Keyword: Matrix Revolutions

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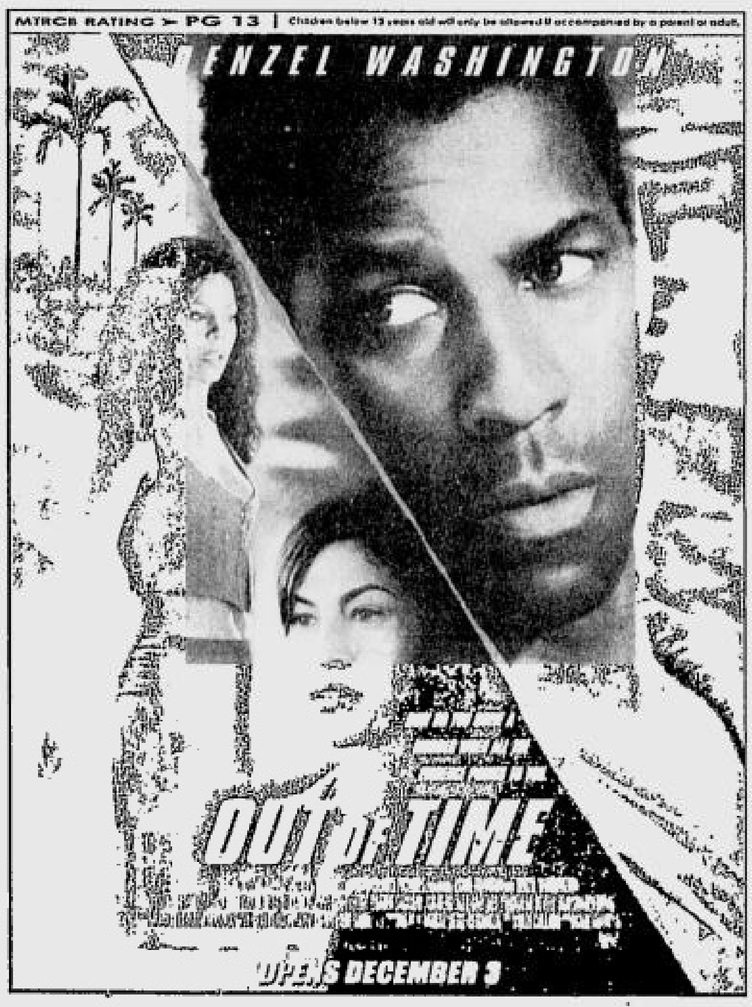
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OUT OF TIME
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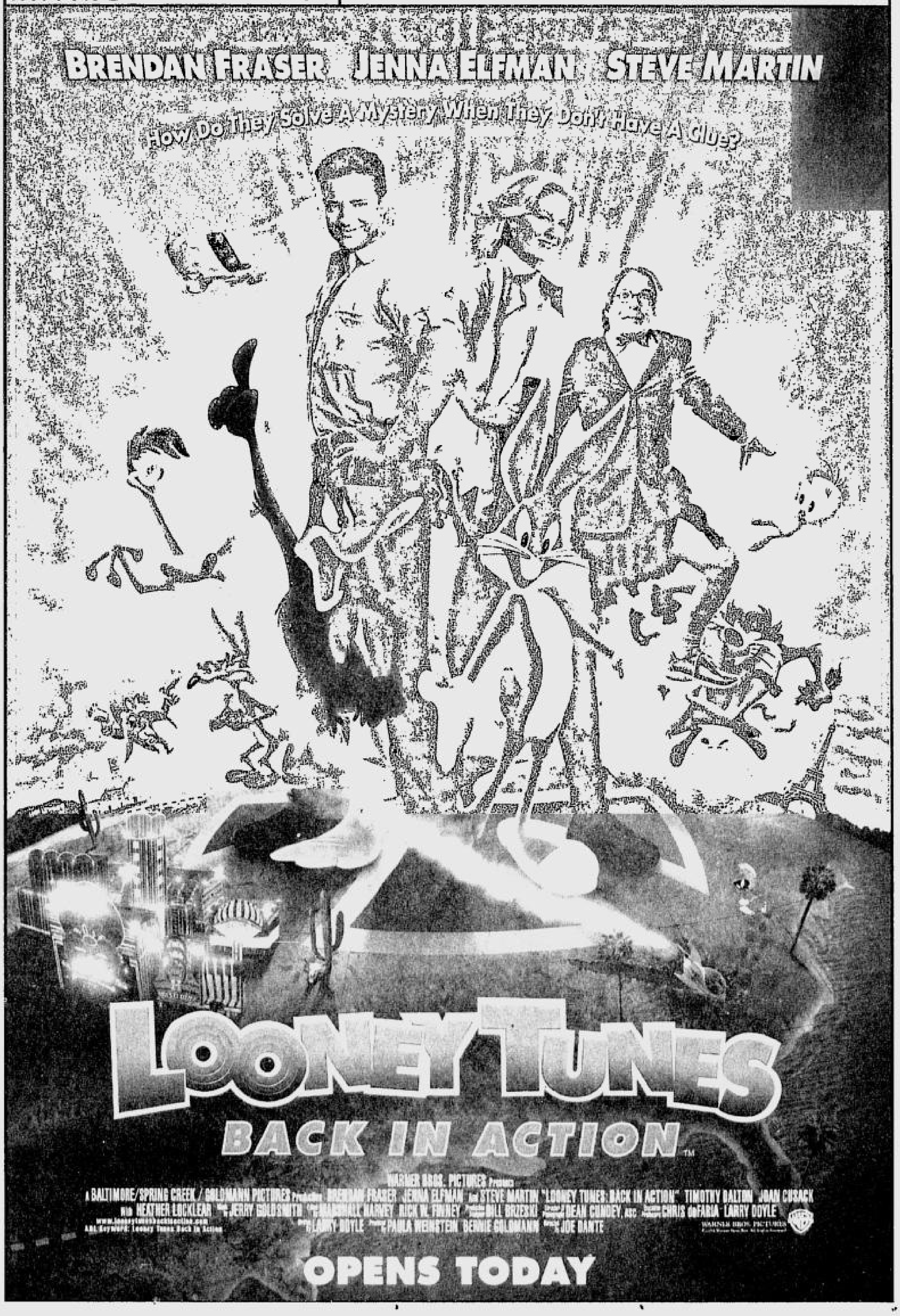
MTRCB RATING GP General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED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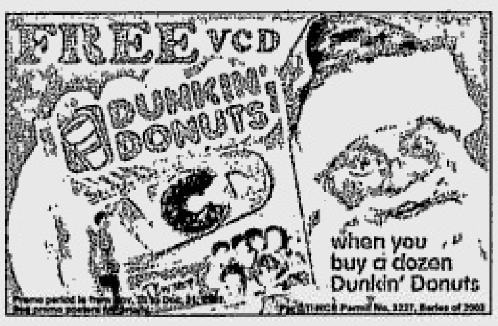
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The past week made clear just how universal this girl's appeal is, as she easily charmed Manila with her presence

More about Moore

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

COUNTLESS little girls all over the world prance around their parents' rooms, singing to music only they can hear, performing for their lone audience—the mirror.

Very few of these girls get to live out this dream of bright lights and roaring crowds, of record deals and hit songs.

Nineteen-year-old Mandy Moore is one of the lucky few.

She was 6 when she discovered her zeal for performing after watching the play "Oklahoma," 9 when she started doing musical theater and 14 when she landed her first record deal.

"I was in a recording studio and a guy I didn't even know very well had a friend at Epic Records in New York. He did me a huge favor by sending the guy my demo before I was finished with it. I was just lucky, being at the right place at the right time."

Moore still remembers what it was like to first hear her song on the radio. "I was in a car in Orlando, Florida where I grew up. I was with my parents. I was excited, nervous, just kind of anticipating, like, what's the next step? What's gonna happen now? It's a genuinely exciting feeling."

Almost five years later, the feeling remains the same. "That rush of goosebumps and, you know, the tingle down your spine. It's kind of, wow. It's a true sense of accomplishment."

Four albums, four movies (one of which was an independent production), countless television hostings and guestings, a lot of live performances and several awards haven't changed Moore much. Or so she says.

But as she walked into the hotel suite at Makati Shangri-La in her all-black ensemble, with a cloud of Costume National surrounding

MORE/ C2

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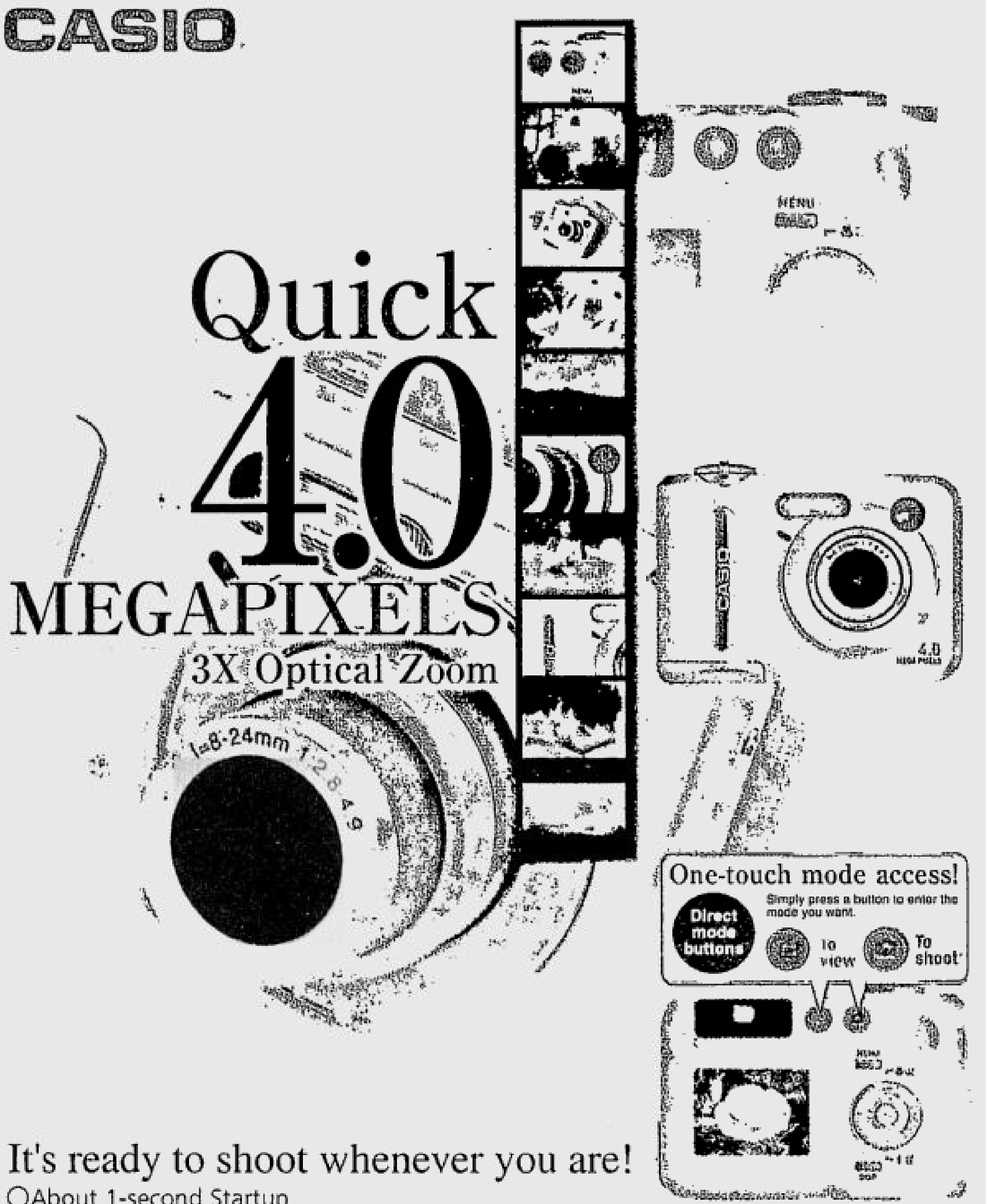

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More about Moore

From page C1

her, it is clear that one of bubblegum pop's little princesses has abandoned her throne.

These days, Moore is looking more like a woman than a girl. And even her music has evolved.

Jet lag

She was suffering from jet lag, she said. It didn't show. When Moore talks, she gets very animated. It's easy to see which topics she is passionate about. Her eyes sparkle and she waves her arms around. It's hard not to get captivated.

She has one interesting quirk. When she's thinking deeply, she sings her "ummms."

When it was time for her photographs to be taken, her makeup artist did a quick retouch and said to Moore before walking off, "Now you're camera-ready." "That's thanks to you, not to me," Moore said, smiling, her words dripping with honey.

She remained that way throughout the interview—perky and pleasant. Apparently, taking away the bubblegum rep has not completely extinguished her sweetness.

A lot of people have made a hobby out of taking potshots at Moore and other teenage pop stars, waving them off as fluff and real live Barbie dolls manufactured for public consumption.

But this girl is no ditz. She may pepper her sentences with "umm" and "like" and "stuff" and "kinda," but don't be fooled. She has a good head on her shoulders.

She is growing up in many ways. She has even taken what has, so far, proven to be a successful step into acting, with young adults from all over the world embracing "The Princess Diaries," "A Walk to Remember" and "How To Deal".

Transition

The transition from music to movies wasn't very difficult, according to her.

"It didn't feel very foreign to me. Obviously, it's something I felt passionate enough about doing that it didn't really seem that different. I've done some acting before. Granted, it wasn't on that level, but it's kind of like doing music videos, it's a very similar process."

Don't make her choose between music and her newfound love, though.

"I love doing both. I love like being able to test yourself creatively in very different ways. And once you get tired of one, you can always resort to doing the other. They balance each other out."

But unlike hearing her songs for the first time, sitting through her movies isn't exactly pure bliss, as she tends to become too judgmental and critical of herself.

Although Moore knows her lifestyle is far from ordinary, she doesn't feel like she's really missing out by skipping a normal life.

As she put it, "I know how lucky I am to be doing what I'm doing so I'm not feeling like I'm missing out on anything. I just realize that I'm in a great position."

Normal

In a lot of ways, she is very normal. She claims to be the same person she is whether in or out of the spotlight. Just like the rest of the world's population, she wakes up and thinks about what she has to do for the rest of the day. She goes to bed thinking about her loved ones.

The only difference, perhaps, is that Moore needs to do a little more juggling to be able to spend time with the people she cares about—yes, including her boyfriend, tennis player Andy Roddick. That's one thing she's very conscious about.

When asked what she would do if she was given a full day off to do whatever she wanted, she said, "I'd go with a bunch of friends and we'd go skydiving, we'd have a great dinner and then like a fun night out."

And if indeed Moore gets to jump out of a plane soon, it wouldn't be her first time. She's done it several times before—with her parents even. "I'm gutsy with that sort of stuff but then I'm not gutsy on the other hand. Like I'd be freaked out to stand up in a karaoke bar to sing in front of strangers but yeah, I can go jump out of a plane. I'm kind of weird in that sense."

What she's done recently can definitely be classified as gutsy. Her latest album, "Coverage," features a smattering of gems from decades past. She described the two-month process of making this record as "the ultimate karaoke—kind of, I guess—session."

Selecting the songs was easy for her. "I basically just chose all of my favorite songs. I was kind of just excited to be able to introduce that kind of music to people my age who might be unfamiliar with it."

Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Elton John, Blondie, Todd Rundgren—Moore did not shy away from covering their hits. And her courage has paid off—to go by the reactions of the people whose songs she has chosen to sing.

"I've heard from Elton John. He gave me a hug and said that he really liked my version of 'Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters,' which was unbelievably flattering because I'm such a huge uberfan of his. I'm probably more nervous to hear any response from the original artists than I am from music critics or fans."

She still gets nervous when onstage. But like a lot of performers, she thrives on it. "I like it. I feel that it drives me to be attentive, and I almost, like, perform better the more nervous that I am.",

Right now, her favorite song to sing is her version of John Hiatt's "Have A Little Faith In Me."

Despite her success, Moore still seems to be very down-to-earth. Her humor is self-deprecating. She is quick to proclaim herself as "weird" or "boring" or "a dork."

ONE-ON-ONE. 2bU! gets personal with Mandy Moore.

ON her latest album, "Coverage": "People my age need to be more aware of this kind of music and what they're missing out on."

"I don't feel like I've made it," she explained. "I'm very proud and excited by some of the things that I've been lucky enough to get to do this far, but I don't know. I think when you start thinking, like, I've made it, it changes your outlook on things. It changes the way you feel about yourself and possibly the way you treat others around you. I was 14, blessed with an opportunity to do something I wanted to do since I was a very little girl and I'm gonna take advantage of it but not take it for granted."

Overwhelmed

Without being asked about her Manila experience, Moore volunteered, "Being able to be over here is just overwhelming. The fact that the people really love the music and the film stuff. I'm so flattered and overwhelmed and excited."

This past week made clear just how universal her appeal is. It wouldn't be a stretch to say that she charmed this city's inhabitants.

The countless people who inquired about getting tickets to her concert. The young girls who hung around Makati Shangri-La hotel's lobby for a glimpse of her. The disappointed fan ranting in her weblog about not being able to meet Moore at last week's autograph signing at Megamall. The driver in the cab on the way back to the office who, after just hearing three words from this taped interview, broke his silence and asked, "*Si Mandy ba yan? Mabait ba?*" The couple in the mall who were overheard arguing about Moore's height ("5'8!" "5'9"! "5'8 nga eh, narinig ko sa radyo kanina..").

Moore was in town for almost a week for MTV's AIDS Summit, her first live concert, an autograph signing session with fans and a number of TV appearances, and people still couldn't get enough of her.

They need not worry. There will be more of Moore to enjoy.

She has two upcoming movies in the first quarter of 2004, "Saved" and "Chasing Liberty," a cameo on Wes Craven's "Cursed," an appearance in the soundtrack of Julia Roberts' new movie, "Mona Lisa Smile" and the possibility of her head-on plunge into Broadway.

She doesn't like making long-term plans. When asked how long she intends to be in the music and movie industry, she said, "As long as there's an audience for me. That's the plan right now. But who knows? Whatever happens happens."

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

MANDY fields questions at a press conference at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel during her visit.

You've come a long way, baby

Mandy Moore has grown up right before our eyes

HER debut album, "So Real," was released on December 7, 1999.

IN 2001, Mandy played bratty Lana in "The Princess Diaries."

ALL grown-up for her eponymous second album and the lead role in Elton John's "Original Sin" music video.

SHE made even the most cynical moviegoer weep buckets in "A Walk to Remember".

MANDY in the studio for "Coverage"

WITH Alyson Janney in "How to Deal"

BRUNETTE and beautiful in 2003

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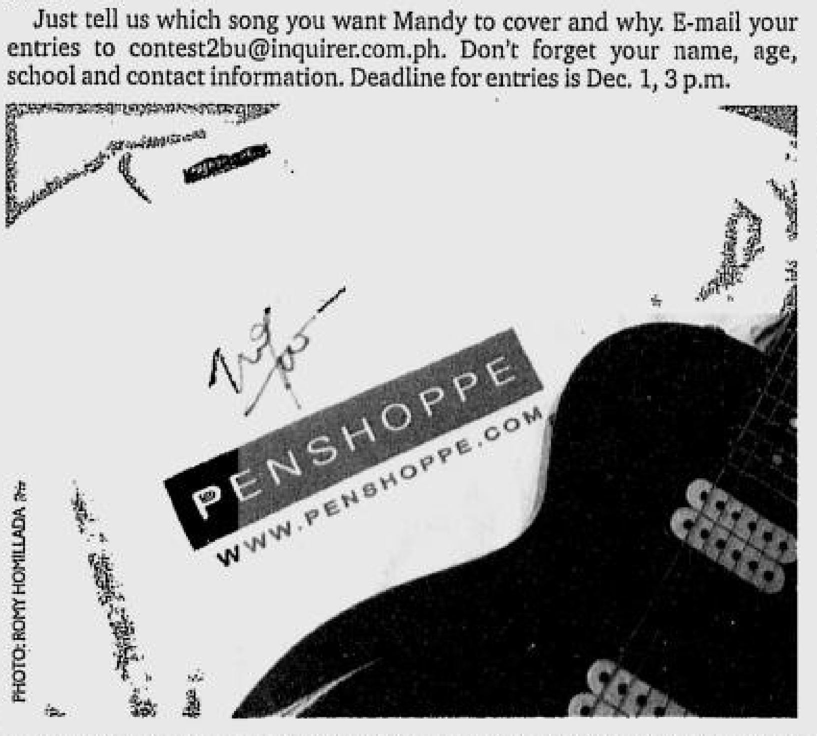

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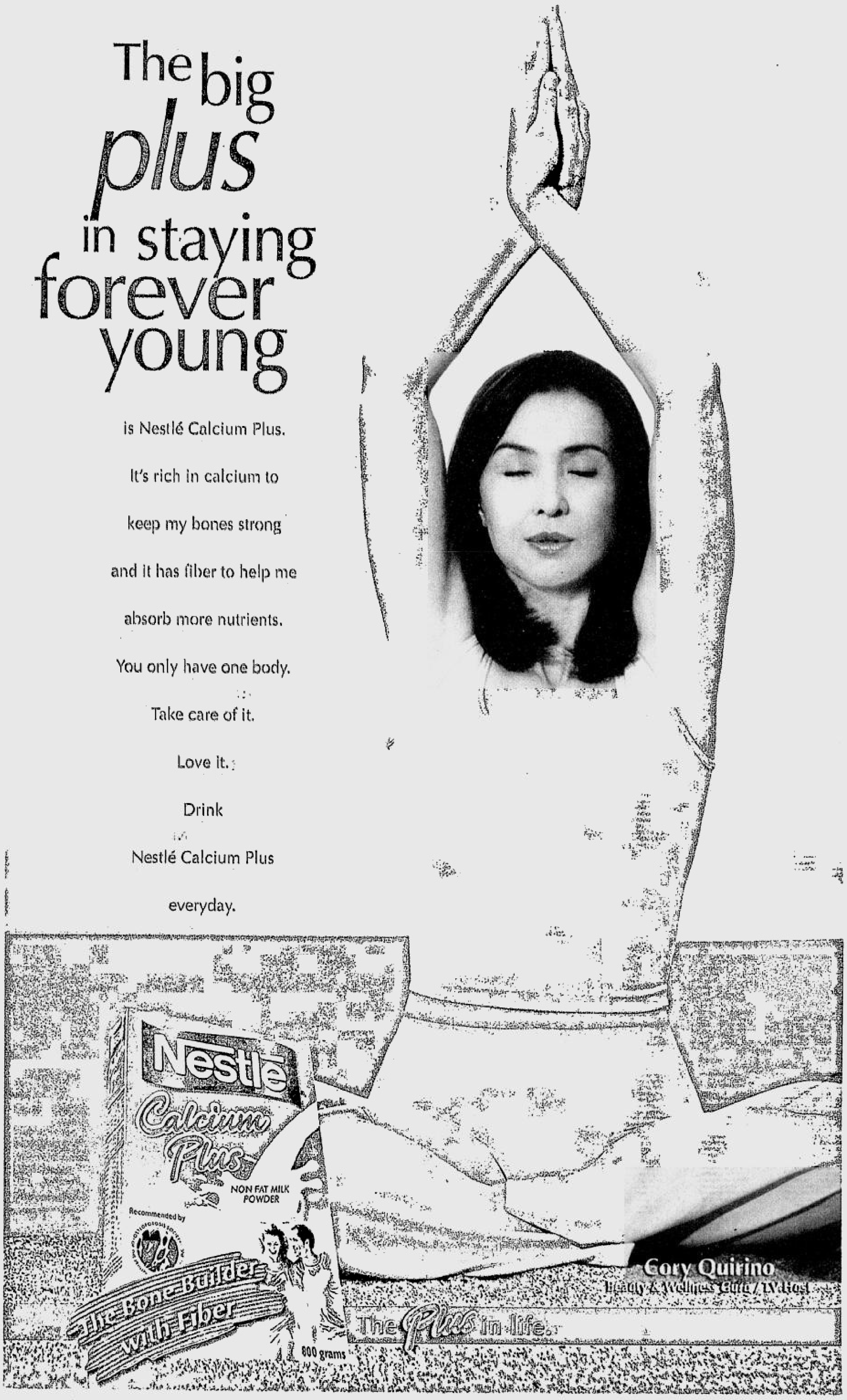
Both MTV Debit and Prepaid cards are now available in all Equitable PCIBank branches and kiosks.

IT ain't MTV without the music. Mojofly rocks the house.



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MANDY AND MORE Penshoppe models strutted their stuff at Mandy Moore's Meet and Greet session at Megamall last Saturday. Young models, including Penshoppe's Club Pen made up of Brad Turvey, Cogie Domingo, Paolo Valenciano, Khalil Kaimo, Vince Canizares, Ala Paredes and Nicole Yulo, modeled the brand's latest collection—a showcase of the latest designs in relaxed casual and casual chic wear.

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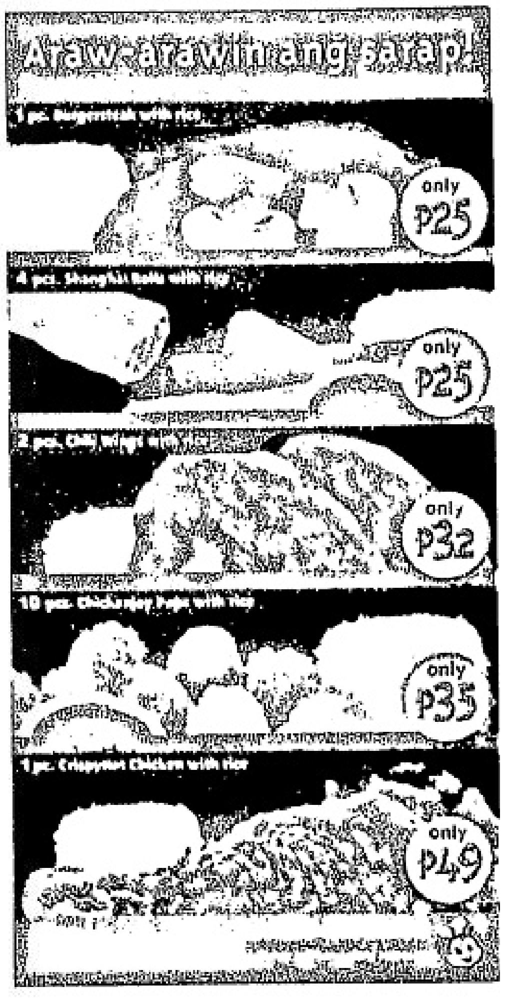
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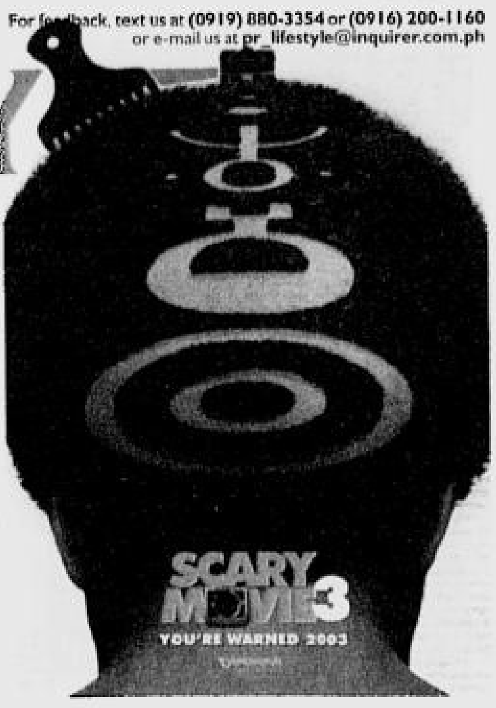

SCARY MOVIE 3
YOU'RE WARNED 2003

‘Scary’ in a different way

By Ruel S. De Vera

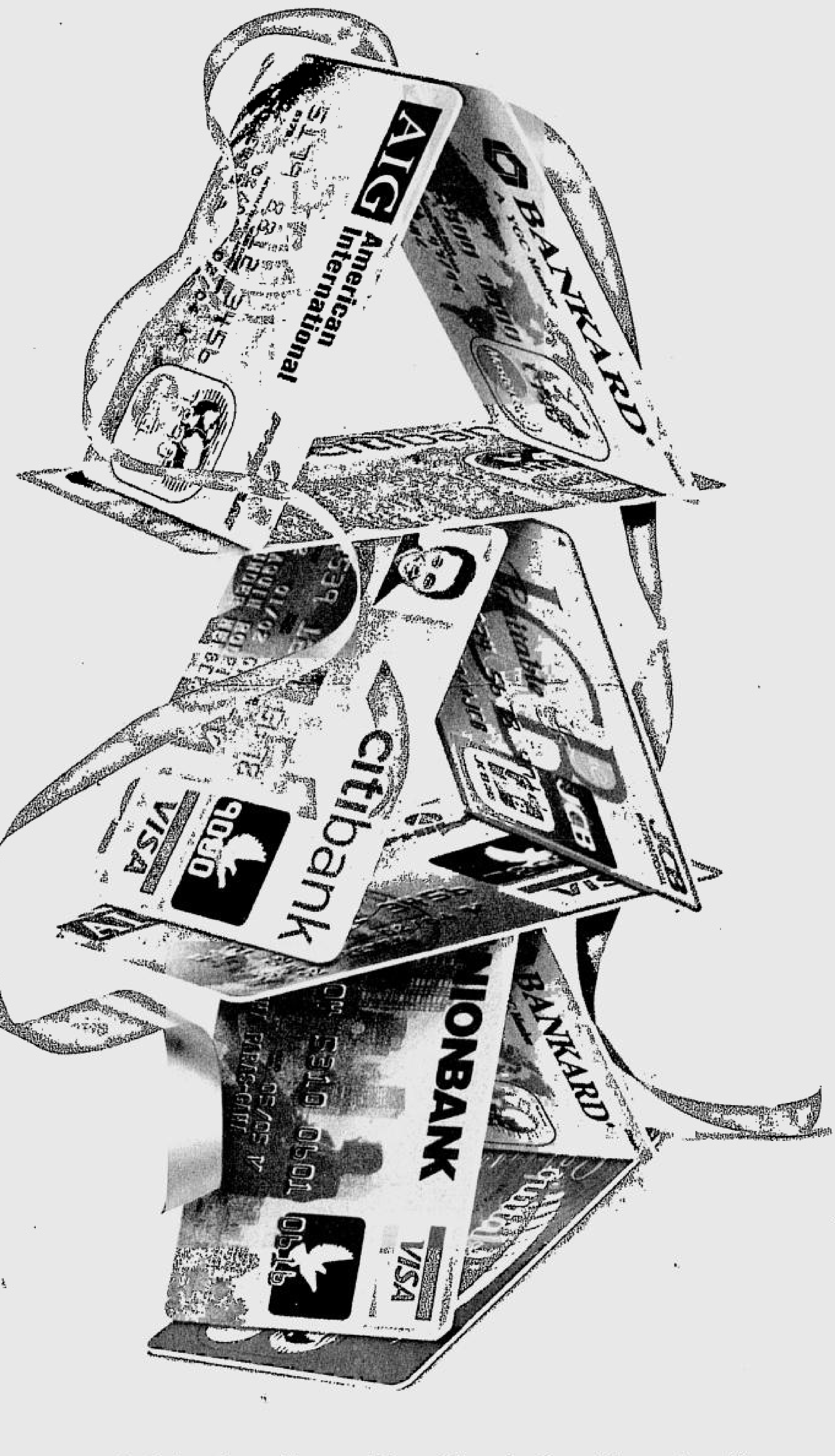
SPOOFS are always a hit-and-miss proposition; either your audience will get the point or miss it completely. A very good example would be Mel Brooks' stuff, ranging from "Young Frankenstein" to "Dracula: Dead and Loving It." You either love it or hate it.

In "Scary Movie 3," audiences will get to see the work of two of the genre's icons: director/producer David Zucker ("Airplane,") and actor Leslie Nielsen (the "Naked Gun" series, which Zucker produced). Those two combine forces in a movie that is mostly by-the-numbers but is also eerily prescient in many ways. Cue scary music.

A surprising second sequel to the spoof series that began with "Scary Movie" in 2000, "Scary Movie 3" has the Wayans brothers behind the scenes instead of in them, but still features familiar carryovers such as leading lady Anna Faris, emoting for all the world like an overly earnest version of Christina Ricci.

The movie, if anything, actually looks grungier and more cobbled-together than the first two. It's actually more scattershot in its intent to skew-

'SCARY'/D2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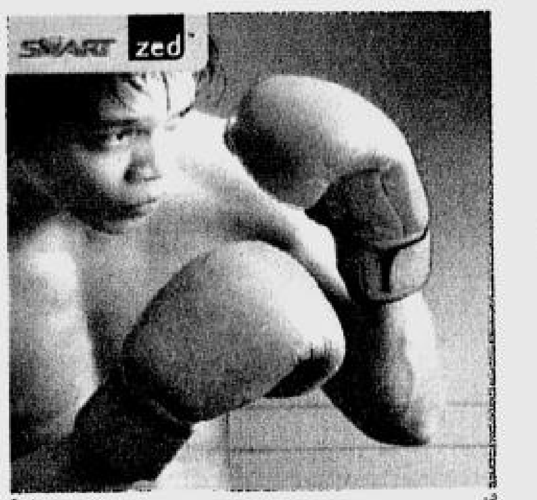

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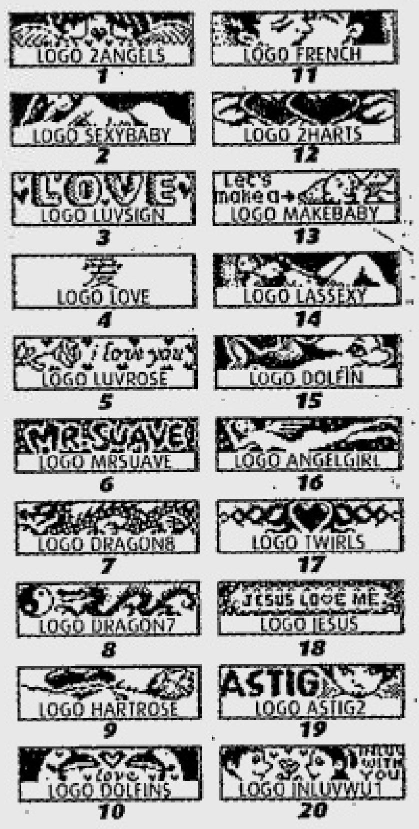
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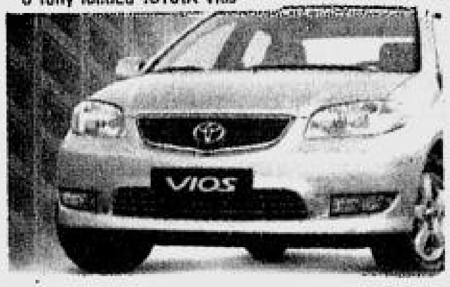

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Scary in a different way

From page D1

er, as if that didn't seem initially possible, and thus feels like the different scenes were just stitched together out of convenience.

But oddly enough, it makes for the funniest and, I can't believe I'm actually going to say this, the best of the "Scary Movie" series so far.

That's because while "Scary Movie 3" sends up its usual plethora of horror movies, it also deconstructs other movies and even personalities, plugging more into the zeitgeist than any of the previous ones. While there is no real coherent singular plot, this iteration boasts the best writing of the trilogy, though there's probably nothing here you won't get from a good episode of "Ispup" or "Bubble Gang."

Horror of horrors

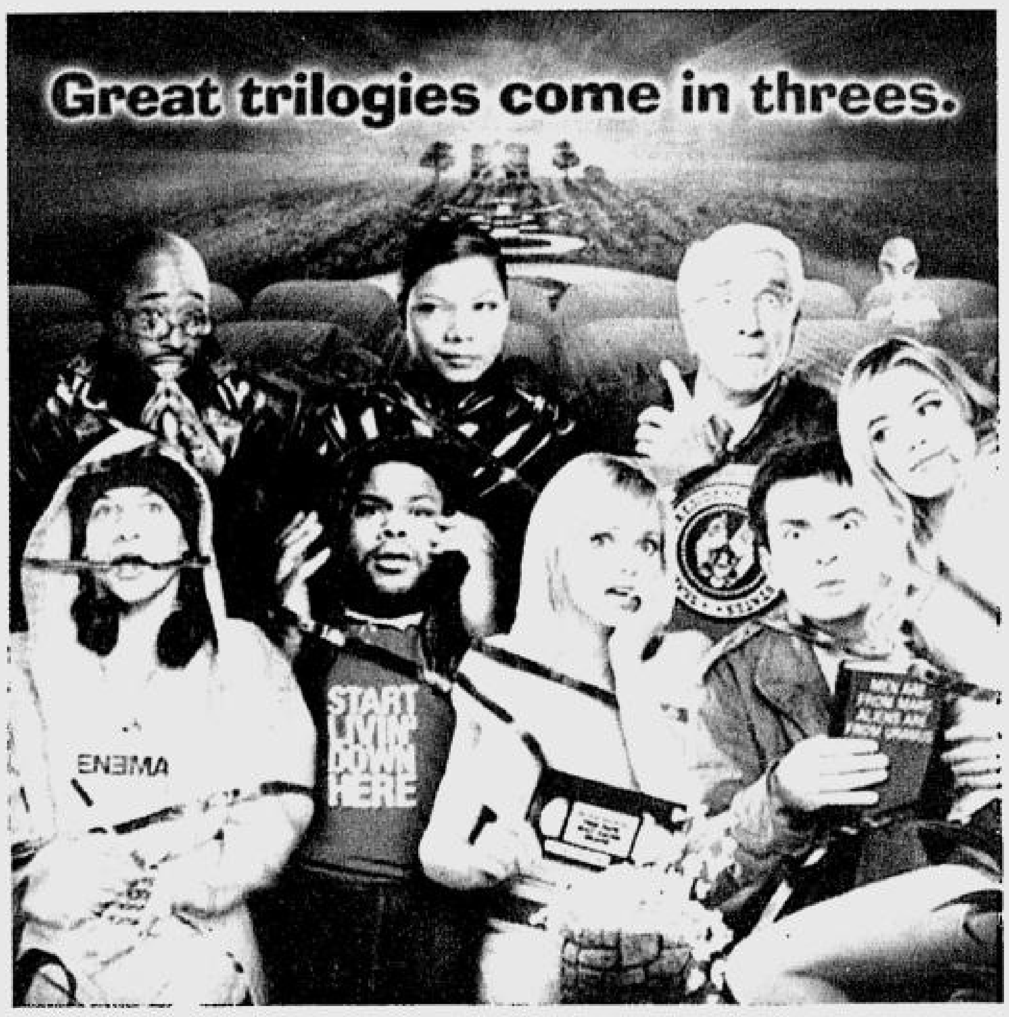
For example, "Scary Movie" takes its main, uh, plots from two horror movies of totally different kinds: M. Night Shyamalan's "The Signs" and Gore Verbinski's Hollywood adaptation of "The Ring." But while there, Zucker also pokes fun at non-horror movies ranging from "The Lord of the Rings" to "The Matrix."

It's effectively a pop-culture slasher fest. In fact, the horror stuff seems an afterthought amid the movie's more current concerns. Additionally, any movie that casts Nielsen as the American president knows what it's doing.

Beyond the creepy prophetic nephew and the whole deadly videotape thing, "Scary Movie" shines most in its spoofing of the hip-hop scene. Starting from its alarmingly on-the-mark send-up of the Eminem movie "8 Mile," "Scary Movie" gets some of its, uh, mojo flowing when George (a blank-faced Simon Rex) pursues his dream of being a successful rapper.

George's rap celebrating the white man is just plain silly. Anthony Anderson ("Romeo Must Die") has his own scene-stealing moments as the Mahalik. The movie also gets a surprising infusion of hip-hop cameos, ranging from the self-explanatory (Fat Joe, Method Man, Macy Gray, Raekwon, Master P and Redman as themselves) to the absurd (Ja Rule as the President's personal secret service agent). Plus Queen Latifah makes for a really funny Oracle, a.k.a. Aunt Shaneequa. And the cameos just keep coming.

It is thus bracing to see such pop-culture fodder as Pamela Anderson, Jenny McCarthy and, in a tour-de-force spoof worthy of his "Hot Shots!" pedigree, Charlie Sheen knowingly and effectively spoof themselves. Even the tiny bit by Denise Richards (as Sheen's wife) is a killer.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catch her if you can.
SCARY MOVIE 3

Admittedly some of the movie's gags aren't perfect, for a variety of reasons.

Some of them are too American, such as "American Idol's" Simon Cowell's dissing the contestants at a rap contest, and comic genius George Carlin's appearance as "The Matrix's" Architect. Nielsen puts forth his best efforts but seems limited by the script, leaving us wishing for the glory days of "Naked Gun's" klutz Frank Drebbin.

And while no-limits comedy is one thing, there can be such a thing as too many Mother Teresa, kid-getting-runover and corpse gags in a single movie.

Prescient

Perhaps the scariest thing about "Scary Movie 3" is its prescience. In a scene repeated endlessly in the trailer, Sheen discovers a Michael Jackson lookalike in his house, leading to a funny fistfight. Some of the lines spoken by the Jacko double—heck, his very appearance on a movie screen—seem oddly prophetic considering the "Thriller" star's current legal woes. Coincidence or supernatural occurrence? You decide.

Just a few pithy warnings: "Scary Movie 3" is very much a post-Farrelly brothers movie, so expect a lot of truly disgusting gags involving everything from feces to projectile vomiting.

It's smart, but not that smart. Just when you think the movie can't get any more brazen in its irreverence, it flings even more irreverent jokes at you. But the movie, despite a rather slow, stilted start, actually gets increasingly funnier. You will actually be embarrassed but can't help but laugh.

No one expects "Scary Movie 3" to be a cinematic masterpiece, but it is a surprisingly intelligent reflection of our pop-culture consciousness. It may not be a particularly well-made movie, but "Scary Movie 3's" all-out assault on what we talk about makes it the most audacious and thus satisfying of the series.

That being said, it's still a "Scary Movie," so leave the outrage at home because this movie is as distasteful and as hilarious as spoofs get.

"Scary Movie 3" is currently showing in Metro Manila theaters.

The all-out spoof lives on in this funny, over-the-top mishmash of skits which skewers more than just horror movies

The Gifted Children
James Flores
Astronomer
Ryan Tumboron
Superior IQ
Jerome Pineda
Composer
Neon Antonio
Numbers W
Christian Tan
Violin Virtuoso
Joshua Diamoy
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Your child could be one of them.

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REVIEW: SAMSUNG SGH-700

A techie's Christmas wish

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

I HAVE always been a faithful Nokia user. It has to be its user-friendly menus and my familiarity with the brand that have made me shun other brands. But whenever we'd visit a cellular phone shop to check the newest models and gawk at the expensive units, I would always say that I wanted a flip-phone (or as a friend fondly calls "clam phone"), and drool over the Samsung phones on display. Well, they were the only colored flip-phones there.

So when Pam asked me if I wanted to review this phone, I wasted no time to test-drive the newly released Samsung phone. It was the clam type. It had a camera. It was in full color.

I am inlove.

What makes it rock

Among the usual Infrared feature (this baby doesn't support Bluetooth), hands-free feature (it comes with its own earplugs and microphone), GPRS and Java, here are just a few reasons why this little firecracker is on Santa's shopping list for us.

Vivid color and sound. It's equipped with a whopping 65,536 colors in a 120x160 pixel LCD screen (external display boasts a 256-color 64x96 pixel Oled LCD), which make it the most dramatic and accurate phone color display I've encountered. It also supports animated images, so forget those stationary wallpapers (of course, you can use your own picture as a wallpaper, but we're not that vain). The SGH-E700 also boasts of 40 polyphonic melodies, which actually got me and Pam tapping our toes to the beat of each ringtone. And the external LCD screen comes in handy. It not only displays the time (which I think is just sheer genius), but also serves as your phone's caller ID.

Easy texting. Bye-bye to those times when my keypad would screw up so that I had to forcefully punch in a letter. The keypad is smooth and easy to use. Thanks to a "Create Message" key on the keypad, there's no need to navigate through menus to pen your short story— that's because it's got a 12 SMS concatenated message feature. You also get to modify the text. You may italicize or align it, although when sent to another phone brand, it doesn't make a difference.

Games galore! Equipped with three games (Go! Hamster, Honeyball and my personal favorite, Bowling), this baby's all you need to get you through those waiting periods or to simply de-stress. Bowling has a two-player feature, so there's no reason you shouldn't share the love. There are also two pre-loaded Java games to add to the fun.

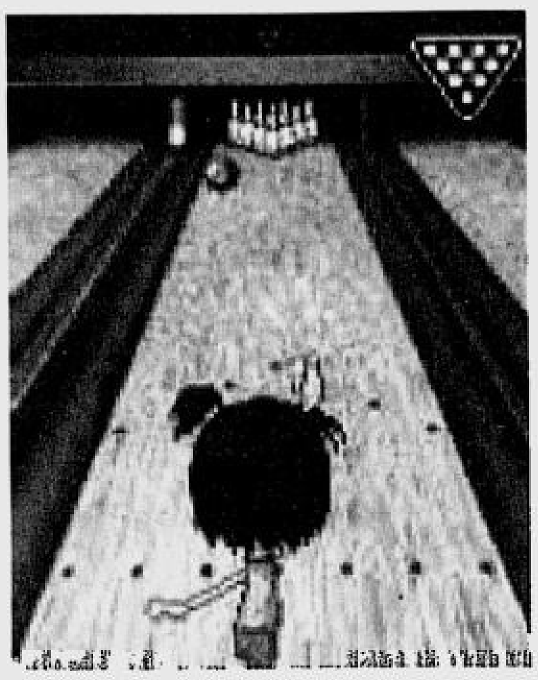
MMS features. You may enter not only a picture with your message, but sound as well. Although the SGH-E700 doesn't support video clips, the clear pictures make up for the pixilated videos other phones brag about. You can even add up to 10 pages, and set how many seconds it takes before the page flips to the next one.

Shutterbug's phone. Ask Tim Yap, he knows I constantly grab his phone to capture our many office antics that he has enforced a rule never to let me within three feet near his phone. The Samsung E-700 is a shutterbug's phone; it is probably the best phone camera to date. There are five modes to choose from: normal, self-shot (no more guessing if your head got chopped off or not in the frame—you get to see what you're taking through the back LCD, so it's like looking in the mirror), multi-shot (think about those four-frame lomo cams that take nine or 15 multi-shots of things in motion), night-mode (forget flash, the camera adjusts its brightness) and capture (hassle-free clicking to get more pictures).

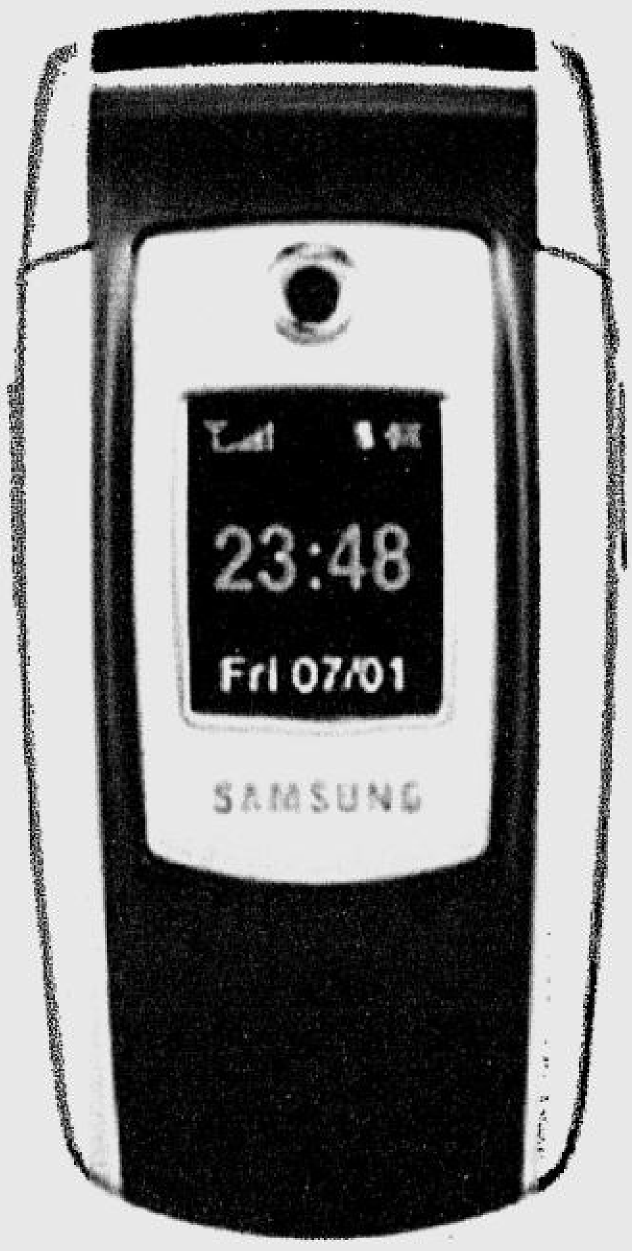
There are 15 frames to choose from, and it's like having a mini-Photoshop in your phone with the five effects (gray, negative, sepia, emboss and sketch) that you can use to add spunk to your pictures. And as if it couldn't get any better, the camera has its own timer, and you have a maximum of 10 seconds to include yourself in that group shot! It's also got four photo sizes to choose from, from an actual 4R size to a small mobile one (you'll be surprised, they're really clear!).

And the SGH-E700 has a zoom-in feature, plus you get to control the brightness of the pics. Awesome.

Compulsive shutterbugs, hear ye! Perhaps the best phone camera ever has come



BOWLING in full color



THE AUTHOR'S love interest

Memory. Believe it or not, it can store up to 1,000 phonebook entries and 200 phone messages. That and 6424KB worth of photos.

The bad side

No SMS folders. Although you can set aside choice MMS messages, you can't come up with folders for those important SMSes. Also, unlike Nokia phones, once you've left the "Create Message" menu, whether by accident or not, kiss that message you were composing goodbye.

Short battery life. Maybe it's just me, but after leaving the house with a fully-charged battery at 9 a.m., I ended up having an empty battery by 4 a.m. the next day. Of course, it's probably because of my constant use that day.

All in all, we'd recommend this phone for those who are thinking of phone-shopping this Christmas. It may be a bit expensive, but if you're one who gets the urge to take photos absolutely anywhere like I do, then this is a worthy investment. So far, I haven't experienced any problems with this phone—it hasn't hanged on me not once, unlike my Nokia that would bonk out occasionally the first week I had it. You also get to download goodies off their online Samsung Fun Club, such as polyphonic ring tones and games.

Did I mention that I'm inlove?

E-mail the author at volcanogirl28@yahoo.com

hiz
Jessica Lourdes Jaro
Astounding Artist
Joseph Valdez
Master of Strings
CJ da Silva
Gem of a Painter
Regina Montesclaros
Concert Pianist
Federis Gumarang
Piano Prodigy

Wyeth

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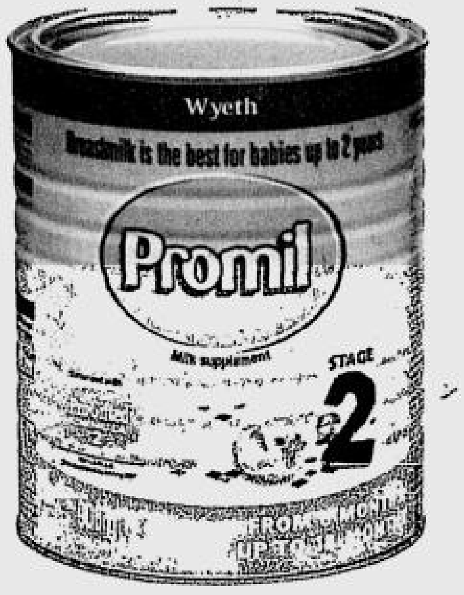

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E.Q. # 51 CA No. 068-2003, 10/28/2003

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How to get over a break-up

Niño Mark Sablan
& September Mabino

Move on, chalk this one up as a learning experience, and don't be afraid to fall in love again

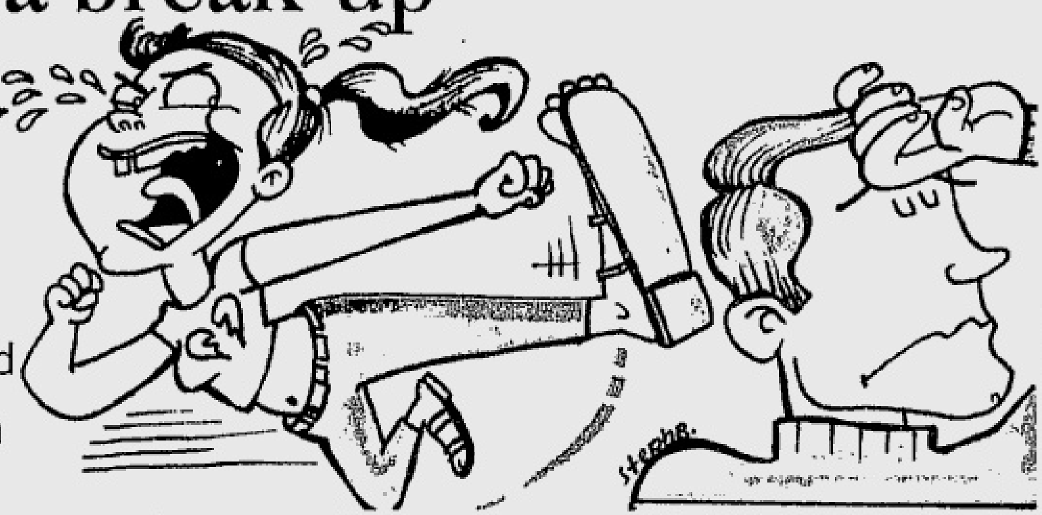


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

DEAR Sep and Mark,

I've been dumped. Why are guys afraid to open up to their girlfriends? If they really want out, why is it so hard for them to say it? According to my ex-boyfriend, "*malayo daw ang relasyon namin*" because he lives in the province and I live in the city.

I hate guys who are jerks and losers. They give up just like that and they don't know that they're losing something precious. I believe in karma by the way, and I've been there. And for me there were a lot of changes and I passed them with flying colors. I hope guys will open up and be more frank this time.

Hope I'm not overreacting. But I was dumped for the first time. Now I can't distinguish the good ones from the bad. Help!

JAMECIA

When being dumped, it is wise to find out the real reason for ending up at the dumpster. The dumper's reason usually turns out to be an excuse, so go on and do some mental exercise and figure out what it is yourself. Make a mental note of your own shortcomings and mistakes and make sure you don't repeat them in your future relationships.

It's obvious you're not buying his long-distance reason, but at least try to understand exactly why he doesn't like the set-up. Maybe you'll even end up realizing that the set-up isn't all too perfect, even for you.

The fact that he's giving up on you and your relationship just because of the seas between you is an indication of how much importance and value he is putting on you. Don't you think such a guy doesn't deserve all the amazing love a girl like you can offer?

The best kind of revenge in situations like yours is to move on faster than the Flash. By going back into the groove of things, enjoying your life and maybe even getting a new (better, cuter, sexier) guy, you not only do yourself a huge favor, but you also show Mr. Probinsyano that you can have a great life even without him. So go.

MARK

Honestly, I don't understand why you are so riled up over being dumped. Sure, it hurts as hell to be told in a roundabout way that you don't meet his standards or that you've stopped meeting them, but break-ups always happen for good reasons. After all, if a person wants out already, then there's no point in disbelieving him or forcing him to stay, unless you want to drive each other miserable.

Your ex has his reasons. While it is only right that he tell you the whole truth instead of watering it down into an inexcusable explanation (and I'm not saying he did that), I don't think calling him a jerk or a loser will make anyone of you feel better. And even if he is one, there's something you've got to be thankful to him about. I hate jerks and losers as well, but thanks to them, I've found out what kind of guys I want and who are those I should stay away from. You are indebted likewise to your ex.

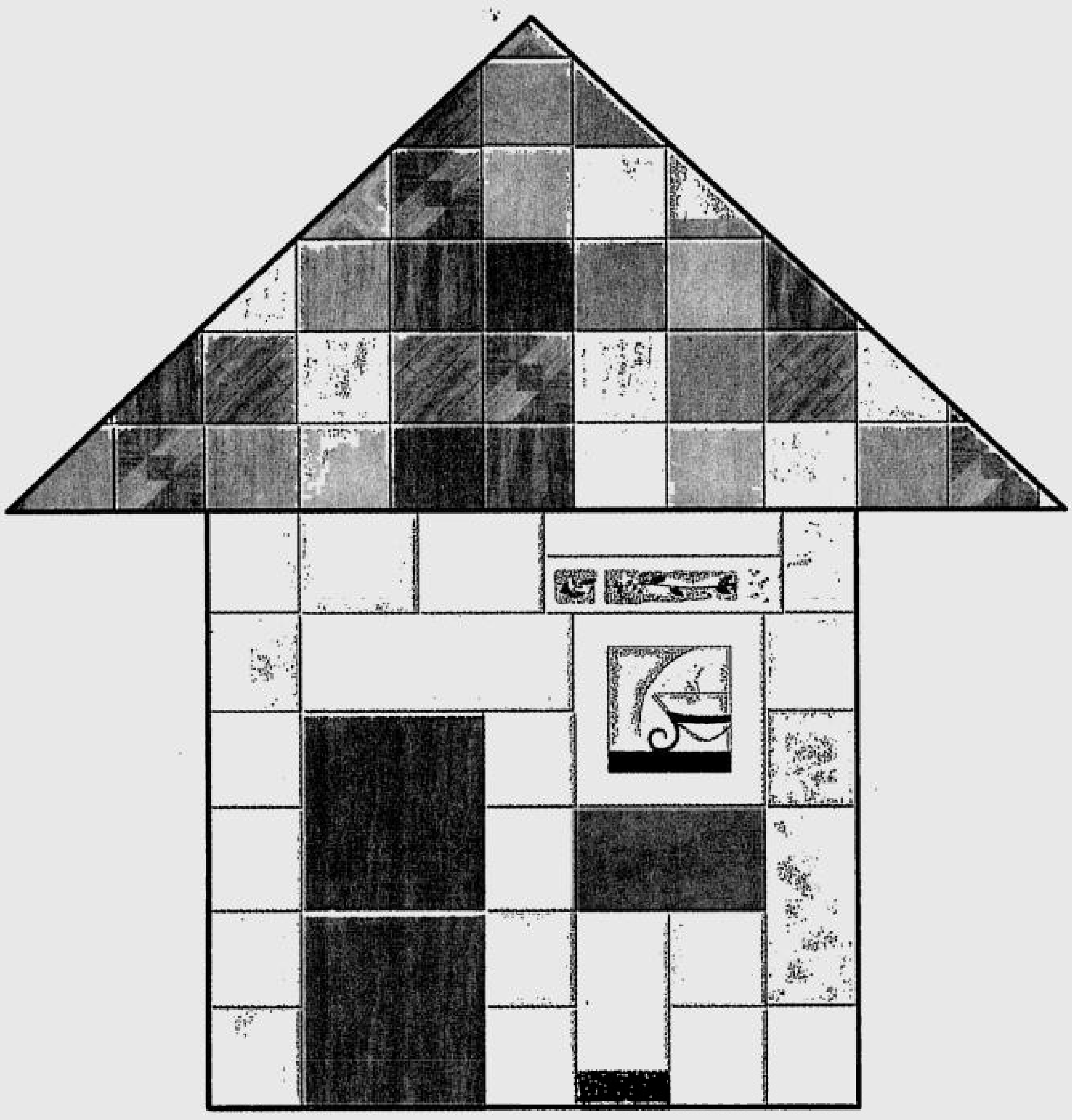
"But isn't love about accepting someone as she is, warts, personality disorders, distance and all?" Well, yes. But part of growing up is finding out that as much as you learn how to be accepting, you also learn what your limits are.

In your boyfriend's case, he found out that a long-distance relationship doesn't do him much. Now, respect that lesson he learned and find out what you have learned from being his girlfriend.

Forget revenge. It's pointless when it involves matters of the heart. You can fume, I guess, while your heart is still smarting but don't dump your anger on someone else. And never plan on hurting a person just to get back at somebody—that might backfire on you and you'd end up with more pain than what you have now.

Move on. Chalk this one up as a learning experience. And to be really cheesy: Don't be afraid to fall in love again (cue sappy music).

SEPTEMBER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Nurturing the Gift

As early as the child's first year of life, signs of giftedness may already be apparent.

From the moment of birth, a baby's world of development and growth becomes of great interest to his parents. For the first time, parents begin to see the wonder of the progress the baby makes. What parents must do is look closely and observe these developments in order to help nurture their child's potential to the fullest.

Could Your Child be Gifted?

Identifying gifted children is a continuous and sometimes difficult process — even more so in infancy. Some of the earliest signs of giftedness may include unusual alertness, long concentration span, high activity level and extraordinary memory. These babies may also smile or recognize caretakers early and pass through developmental stages earlier than average. They may have intense reactions to noise, pain and frustration; respond actively to visual stimulation (i.e. pictures) and stories; get easily bored with routine and in turn seek out and enjoy new experiences. In infancy, gifted children may also have high a degree of curiosity and a fascination with books.

The Role of Nutrition

To help bring out a child's gift, it is best for parents to start nurturing their child during early infancy. Good nutrition is vital in the first 18 months of a child's life. The right nutritional start will help determine a child's physical and mental development for the years to come. Even before birth and during the early years of a child's life, most of his organs and tissues, blood, brain and bones are formed. Also, his intellectual and physical potential are shaped at this time.

It is crucial to provide a child with the proper nutrition. ProGifted Formula 2 contains all the essential nutrients that a child needs to help him reach his full potential from 6 up to 18 months of age.

Nurture the Gift

A child learns first from his parents. Parents who spend time with their child are more able to tune in to their child's interests. In turn, parents can encourage their child to pursue a wide variety of interests such as art, nature, music and sports. It is also important that parents read to their child frequently, even when the child is not yet capable of reading. In the early years, home exposure and support of interests are vital to the development of talents.

A child's gift may also only reveal itself when he encounters an experience, which taps a latent interest or ability. So whatever activity or hobby a child pursues, the best thing that a parent can do is to support, love and nurture him.

Sources:
1. Unicef 2003
2. Silverman, L. K., How Parents Can Support Gifted Children, ERIC Bulletin, October, 1992, a publication of The Council for Exceptional Children.

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SUGARFREE

The future of Pinoy rock

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

THE 10th NU 107 Rock Awards are being held tonight at the World Trade Center. Did you get to purchase your ticket?

2bU! trains the spotlight on the Best New Artist nominees. Place your bets, quick!

Sugarfree

Nominated for: Best New Artist, Band of the Year, Best Music Video, Vocalist of the Year, Bassist of the Year, Drummer of the Year, Producer of the Year (Ebe Dancel and Angee Rozul) and Song of the Year ("Burnout")

I wanna be a rock star. The band started out a few years ago at Freedom Bar when Chavi Romowac (of Session Road), Jal Taguibao and Ebe Dancel decided to form a band that would play the many original songs Dancel had.

Drummer Mitch Singson hopped on board after a few jamming sessions, and the final line-up of Sugarfree was born.

Patience is a virtue. Sugarfree may have been one of the very few Pinoy rock groups to break into the Top 40 charts, but it didn't happen overnight.

Their debut album, "Sa Wakas," which features the heart-heavy singles "Burnout" and "Mariposa," is actually "one year, three months and two days late," Dancel shares, since the first

THE FUTURE/ E3

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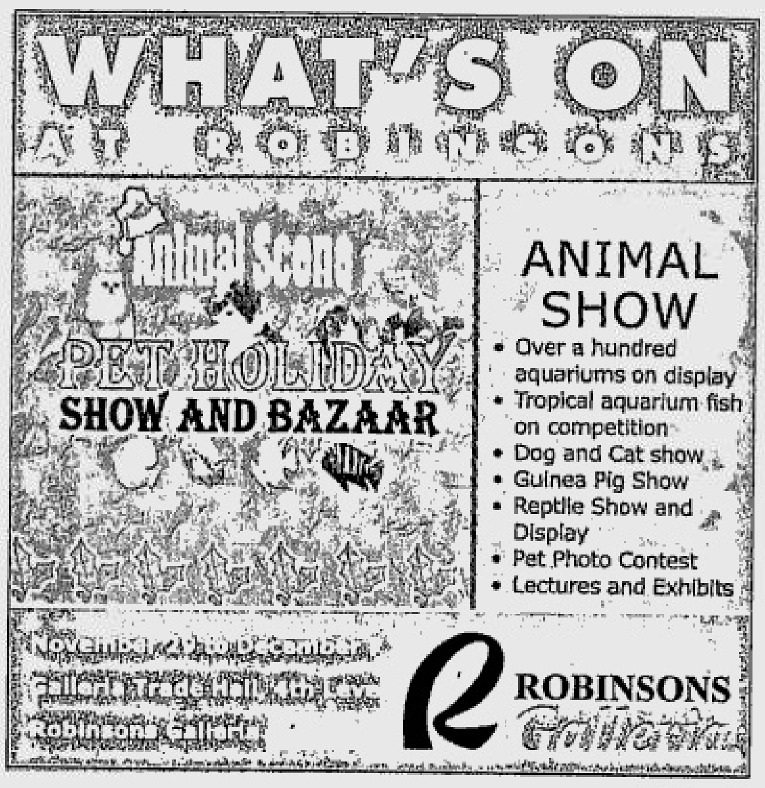

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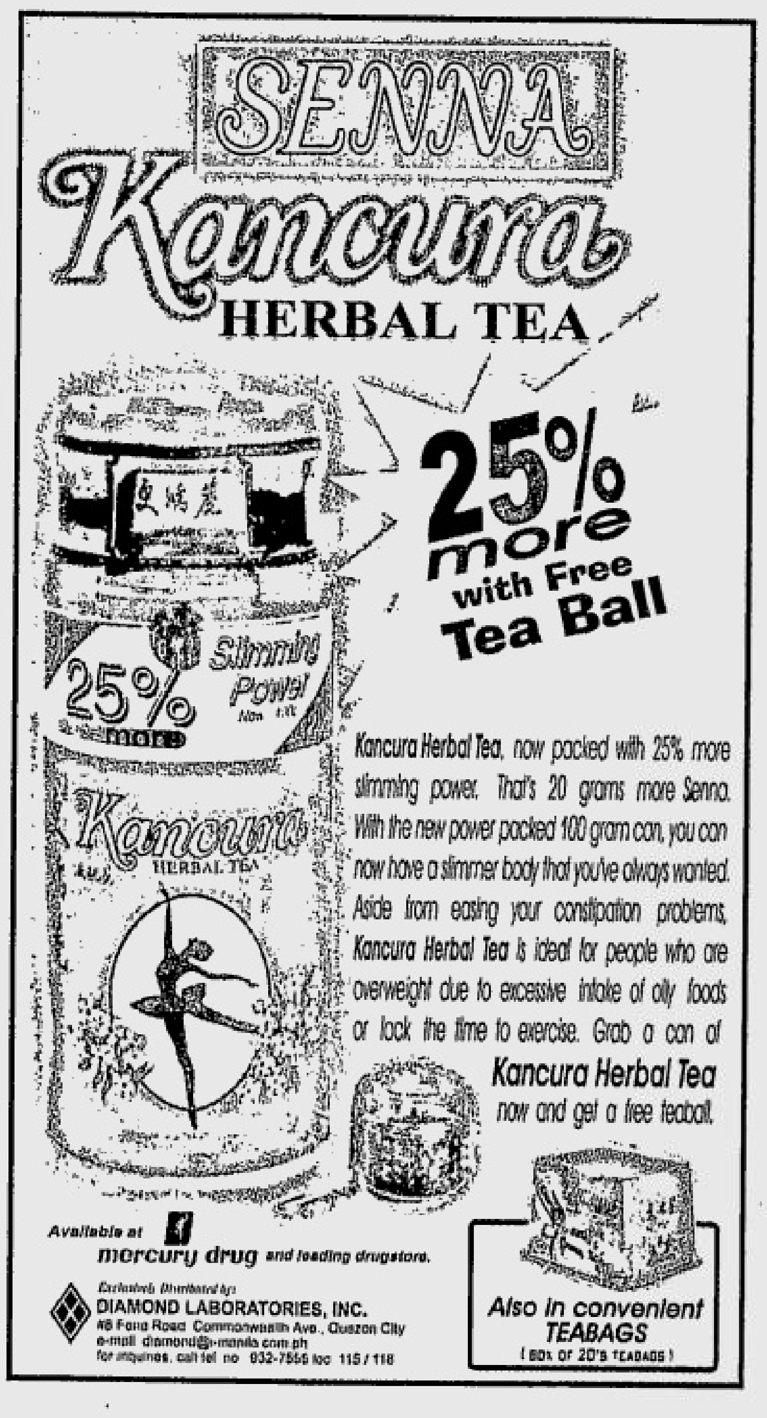

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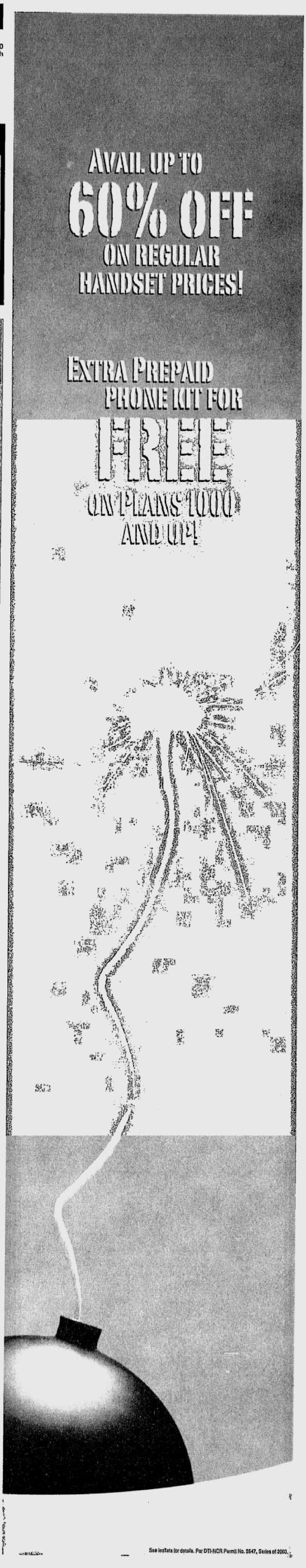
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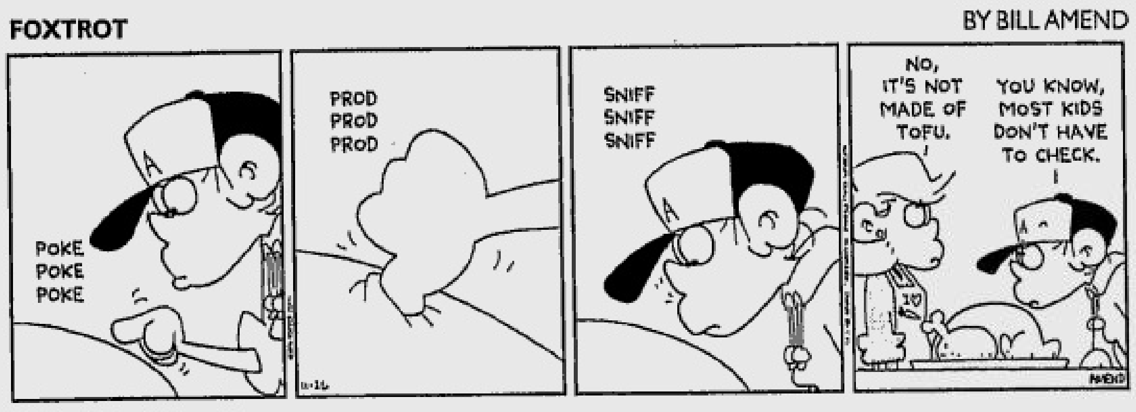
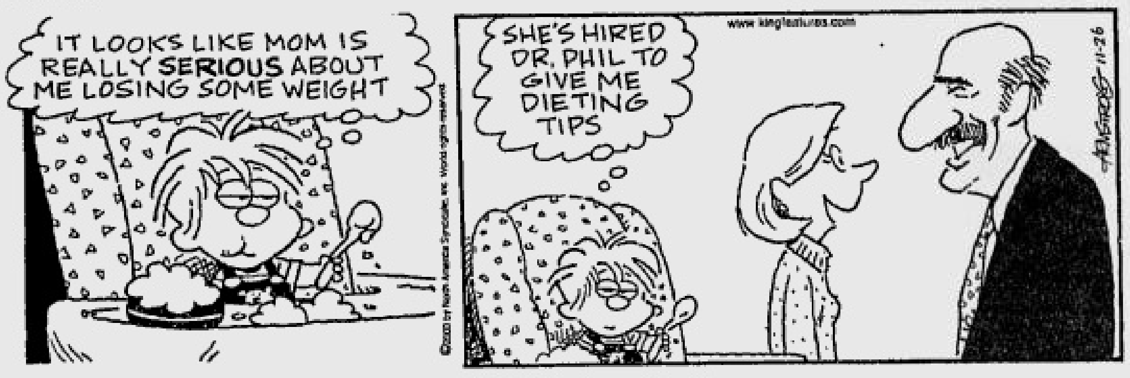

POKE POKE POKE
PROD PROD PROD
SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF
NO, IT'S NOT MADE OF TOFU.
YOU KNOW, MOST KIDS DON'T HAVE TO CHECK.

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IT LOOKS LIKE MOM IS REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT ME LOSING SOME WEIGHT
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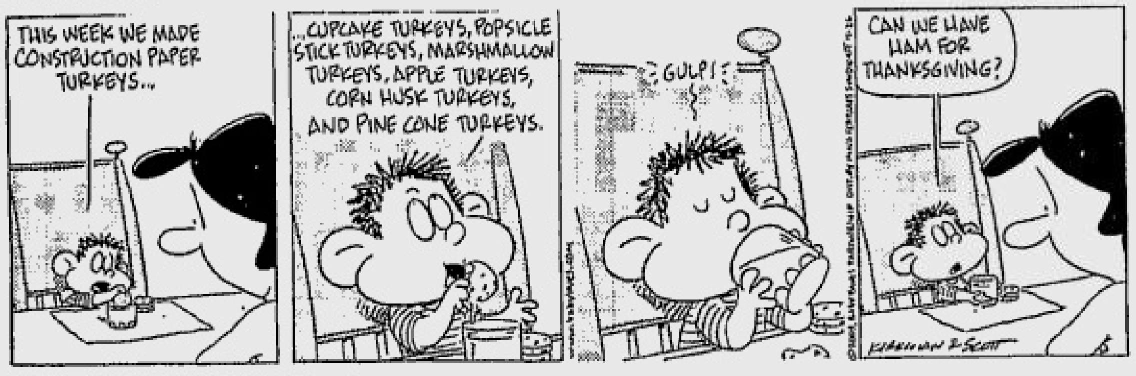
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT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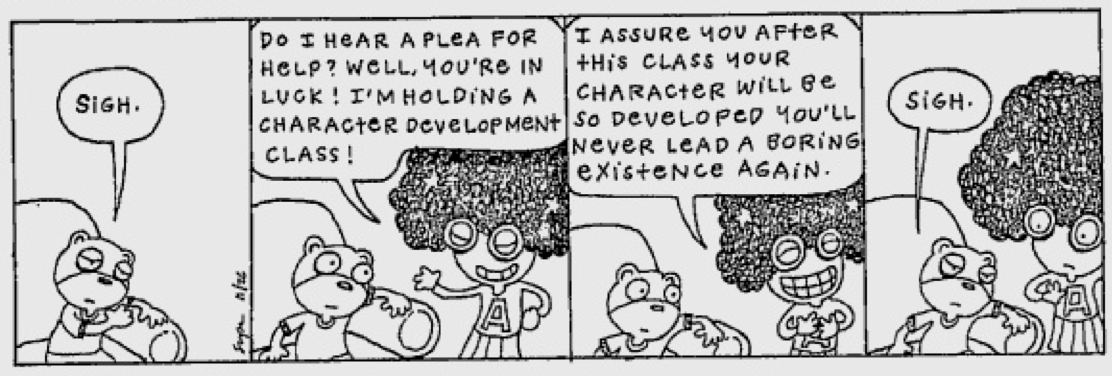
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO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SIGH.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Freedom is very important for you. You march to your own drummer. You're philosophical yet you have common sense. You have a need to achieve, and you want to express your creative talents. Although grounded in this world, you are full of fancy. Friendship is dear to you. Expect increased solitude this year to learn something important.

Birthdate of: Eugene Ionesco, writer; Tina Turner, singer; Charles Schulz, cartoonist/creator of Peanuts.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't get into arguments today about politics . You will definitely be tempted to do so. It's not that you can't have an opinion about these things, but today is not the day for these.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might have a serious conflict today with a friend or the energies of a particular group. It will be a test of how badly you want to do something or not.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Power struggles with authority figures, bosses and parents are extremely likely today. Try to back off if you can. Tackle this question another day, when the vibes are more mellow.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have two choices today: You can butt heads with others; or you can use this powerful energy to creatively transform the world around you. Your call.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Definitely avoid power struggles with children or young people today. It's wise to know when to pick your fights. Today people are stubbornly entrenched in their views.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You can either really clean up and make big improvements today at home, or you can make adjustments to how you relate within your family dynamic. Definitely avoid conflict today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You love to debate, but you hate to fight. You might as well know that today lots of people are looking for a fight. (Don't wake the sleeping giant.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Power struggles about money, children and creative projects are likely today. (Far better that you use this strong energy to get a lot of work done.)

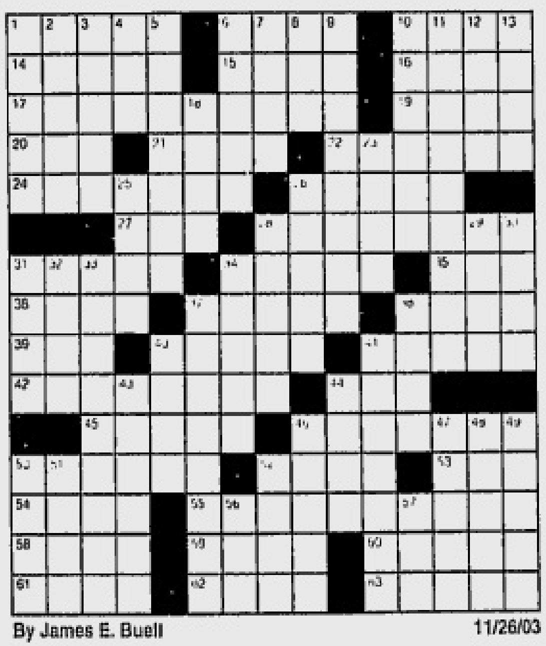
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have a strong drive today to make improvements all around you, perhaps even to your own appearance or your body. This is good.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be careful in everything you say today. You might be tempted to be ruthless or cutting (which does not reflect who you are). Think twice before you speak.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A compulsive urge to spend money on something might grip you by the throat today. This is the worst way to spend your hard-earned cash.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be careful you don't arouse opposition from others today. You're very determined to make changes. Be cool.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
11/26/03

ACROSS
1 Forbidden
6 Witty remark
10 First mate?
14 Forum
15 Bear in the sky
16 Farm tower
17 Gas burner
19 Pitfall
20 Approx.
21 Double agent
22 Peaceful
24 Sweet course
26 Chaos
27 Launch area
28 Kingly
31 Kingly
34 Prenatal
35 Linden or Holbrook
36 Outback runners
37 Follow the scent
38 Latvian capital
39 Pierre's friend
40 Pearly whites
41 Mountaineer's spike
42 Dough to blow
44 Outlaw
45 Takes home
46 Plumber's tool
50 Derrick component
52 As it __ (so to speak)
53 Flying letters
54 East of the Urals
55 Give a wide berth
58 Ship
59 Had an obligation
60 Eagles' home
61 "South Park" co-creator Parker
62 Silent affirmatives
63 Takes in roomers

DOWN
1 Prerecorded
2 Crop up
3 Big swigs
4 Lennon's love
5 Cookie variety
6 Bee product
7 Egg on
8 Sort of: suff.
9 Well-known wheel-spinner
10 Houston pros
11 Bull's-eye
12 Astronaut Shepard
13 Sulk
18 Lady's mate
23 Daredevil Knievel
25 Spring resorts
26 Break out of one's shell?
28 Full of substance
29 "Othello" evildoer
30 Highlands family
31 Paper quantity
32 Thompson of films
33 Rule of thumb
34 Liberates
37 "Break, Break, Break" poet
38 Skating place
40 Ripped
41 Daytona 500 starter
43 Ailment
44 Novelist Amelia
46 Pays attention to
47 Shock jock Howard
48 Anticipate
49 Inventory listings
50 Days of old
51 __-friendly
52 Garden invader
56 Tango requirement
57 Director Ang

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	A	R	A		P	A	G	A	N		O	N	E	S
O	D	E	S		A	N	I	S	E		F	I	R	E
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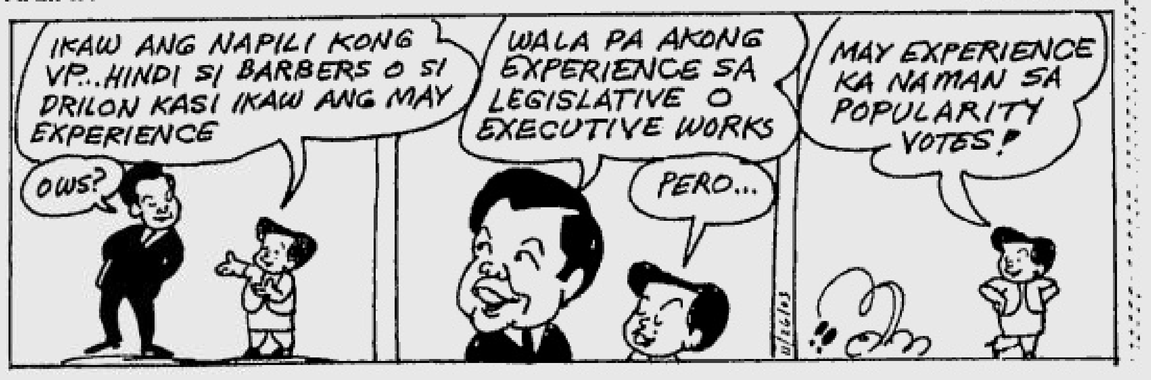
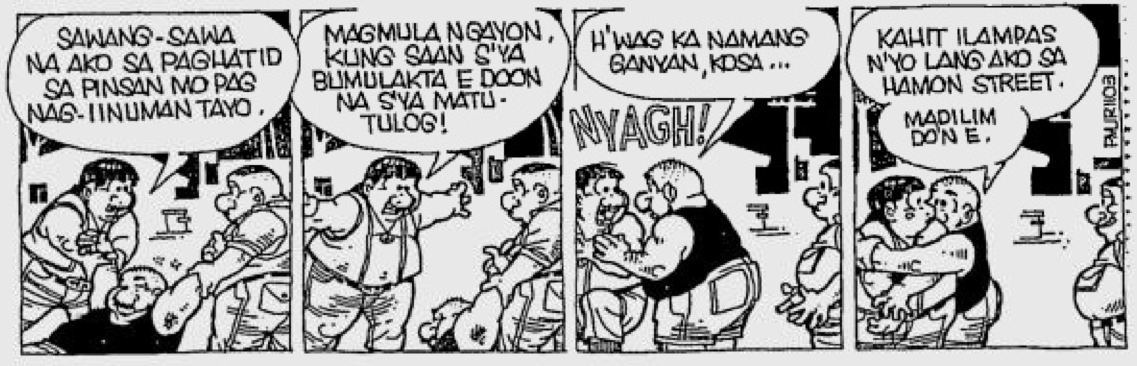
11/26/03

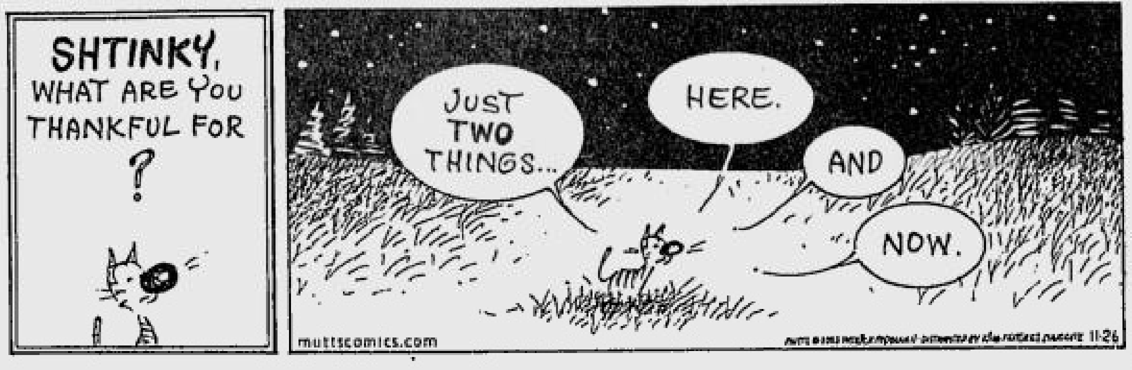
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


IKAW ANG NAPILI KONG VP...HINDI SI BARBERS O SI DRILON KASI IKAW ANG MAY EXPERIENCE
OWS?
WALA PA AKONG EXPERIENCE SA LEGISLATIVE O EXECUTIVE WORKS
PERO...
MAY EXPERIENCE KA NAMAN SA POPULARITY VOTES!
11/26/03

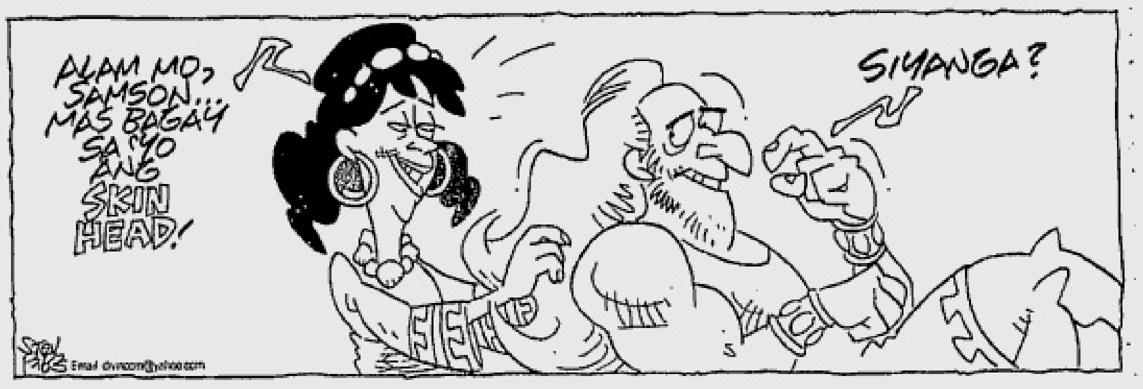
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SAWANG-SAWA NA AKO SA PAGHATID SA PINSAN MO PAG NAG-IINUMAN TAYO.
MAGMULA NGAYON, KUNG SAAN S'YA BUMULAKTA E DOON NA S'YA MATUTULOG!
H'WAG KA NAMANG GANYAN, KOSA...
NYAGH!
KAHIT ILAMPAS N'YO LANG AKO SA HAMON STREET.
MADILIM DO'N E.
PJR1103

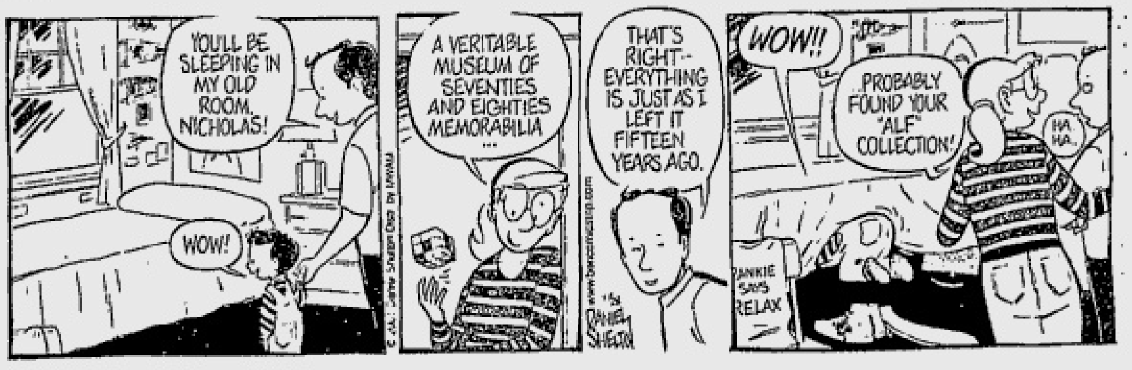
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHTINKY, WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR ?
JUST TWO THINGS...
HERE.
AND
NOW.
muttscomics.com
11-26

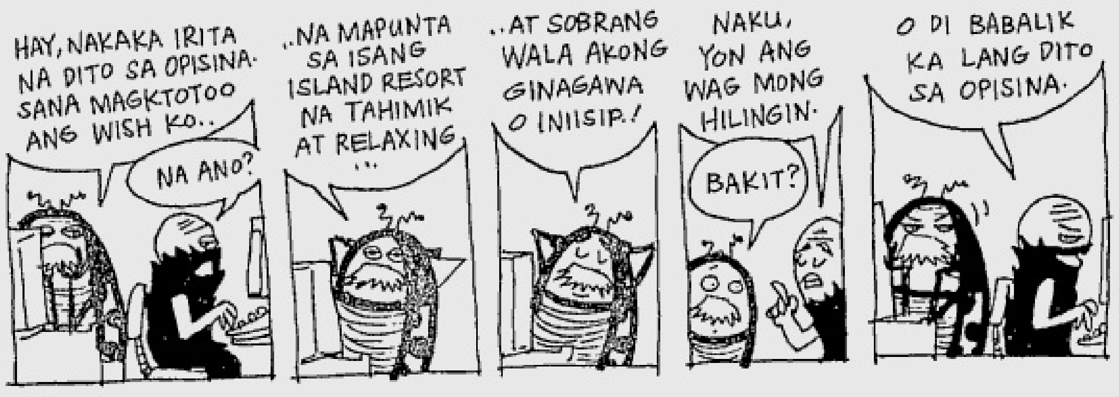
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ALAM MO, SAMSON... MAS BAGAY SA'YO ANG SKIN HEAD!
SIYANGA?
Email divincom@yahoo.com

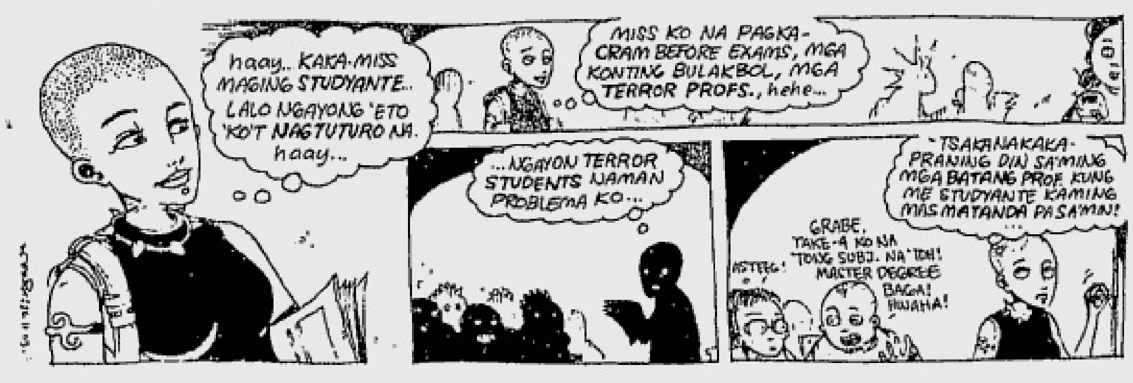
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU'LL BE SLEEPING IN MY OLD ROOM, NICHOLAS!
WOW!
A VERITABLE MUSEUM OF SEVENTIES AND EIGHTIES MEMORABILIA
THAT'S RIGHT-- EVERYTHING IS JUST AS I LEFT IT FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.
WOW!!
...PROBABLY FOUND YOUR "ALF" COLLECTION!
HA HA..
FRANKIE SAYS RELAX

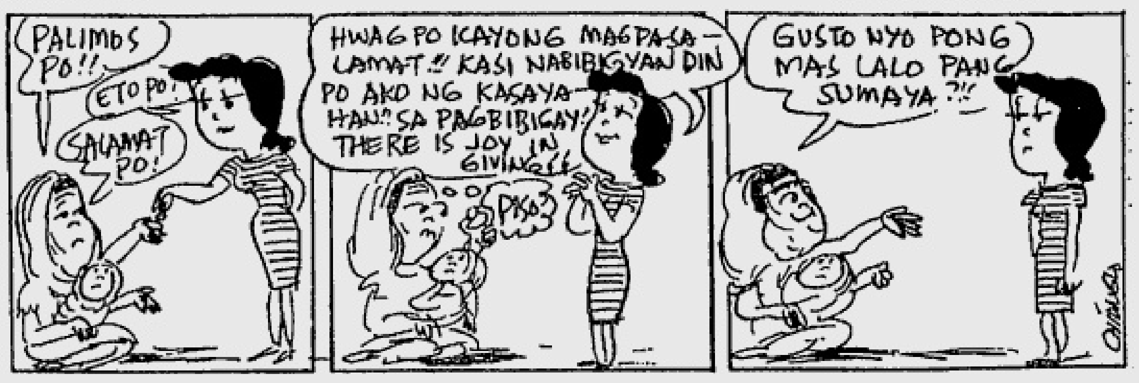
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY, NAKAKA IRITA NA DITO SA OPISINA. SANA MAGKTOTOO ANG WISH KO..
NA ANO?
..NA MAPUNTA SA ISANG ISLAND RESORT NA TAHIMIK AT RELAXING ...
..AT SOBRANG WALA AKONG GINAGAWA O INIISIP.!
NAKU, YON ANG WAG MONG HILINGIN.
BAKIT?
O DI BABALIK KA LANG DITO SA OPISINA.

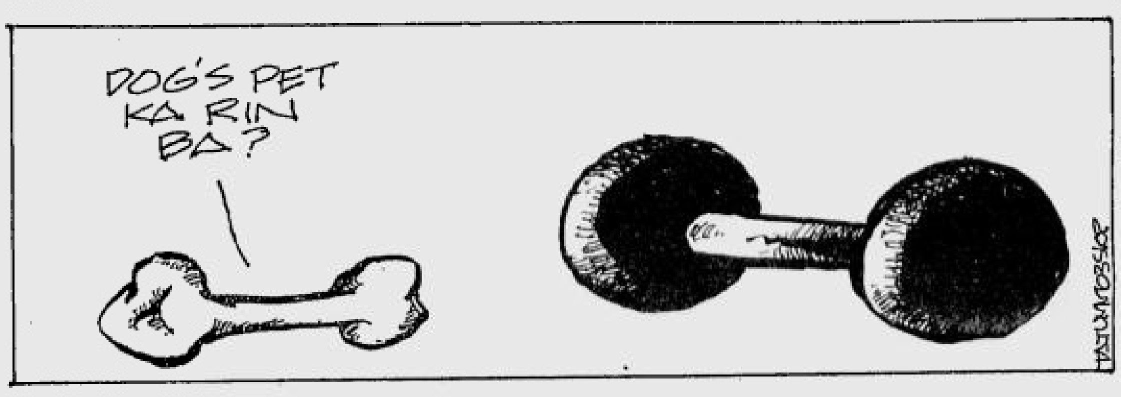
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

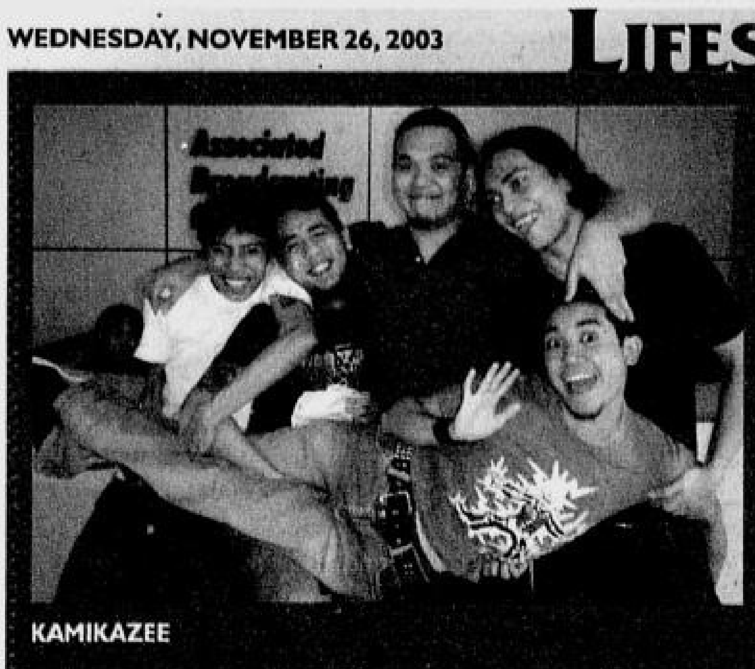

haay.. KAKA-MISS MAGING STUDYANTE.. LALO NGAYONG 'ETO KO'T NAGTUTURO NA. haay...
MISS KO NA PAGKA-CRAM BEFORE EXAMS, MGA KONTING BULAKBOL, MGA TERROR PROFS., hehe...
...NGAYON TERROR STUDENTS NAMAN PROBLEMA KO...
TSAKA NAKAKA-PRANING DIN SA'MING MGA BATANG PROF. KUNG ME STUDYANTE KAMING MAS MATANDA PA SA'MIN!
ASTEEG!
GRABE. TAKE-4 KO NA 'TONG SUBJ. NA 'TO! MASTER DEGREE BAGA! HWAHA!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PALIMOS PO!!
ETO PO!
SALAMAT PO!
HWAG PO KAYONG MAGPASALAMAT!! KASI NABIBIGYAN DIN PO AKO NG KASAYAHAN SA PAGBIBIGAY! THERE IS JOY IN GIVING!!
PISO?
GUSTO NYO PONG MAS LALO PANG SUMAYA ?!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DOG'S PET KA RIN BA?


KAMIKAZEE

7FOOT JR.

The future of Pinoy rock

PAN

2bU! trains the spotlight on the Best New Artist nominees of the 10th NU 107 Rock awards.

From page E1

record company that signed up couldn't release their record. The band is now under EMI.

"I am home," Dancel says of the change of record companies. "And it feels good."

Fulfilling a dream: Dancel claims all he ever wanted to do was to have an album out, and being nominated feels like he already won. That, and the fact that he's fulfilling a lifelong dream of playing at the awards.

"I've always been a fan of the Rock Awards," he confessed. "I'm so excited, it's like the first day of high school."

And if he wins? "I'd call up my crush and ask her out *kasi ngayon may pogi* points *na ako, eh*," he says, laughing.

He'd also want to see Kamikazee win, because "they've been through the same things that our band has gone through."

Pan

Nominated for Best New Artist, Band of the Year, Song of the Year ("Dumpsite"), Album of the Year, Best Music Video, Best Album Packaging, Vocalist of the Year and Producer of the Year

Mythology 101. Pan is the Greek god of music, a half-man, half-goat dude who was known to be stinky. We're not sure if songwriter/vocalist Dong Abay and guitarist/musical arranger Onie Badiang stink, but we're pretty sure their music rocks.

Formed in 2001, the twosome, who were both formerly from Yano, decided to team up and breathe life into the songs Abay had written.

Been there, done that. Aside from Yano, Badiang has been in bands like Bagong Lumad and Asin, and claims to be the "multi-instrumentalist" of Pan. "We've also played the Rock Awards in 1994, 1995 and 2002," Abay shares. They've also bagged Best New Artist in 1994 (for Yano) and Best Album Packaging in 1995.

Everyone's a clown. Pick up a copy of its album, "Parnaso ng Payaso," (which means "Anthology of a Clown's Poetry") under BMG, which features 14 Filipino songs. "[It's in Filipino] because it's the language I know best. And I want people to experience the songs as poetry," says Abay.

Since Pan has experienced winning at the awards, who would they want to see win this year? "[NU 107 President] Atom Henares! He is the big man, afterall!" Abay says. "*Ewan ko kung pwede, basta gusto ko siya manalo!*"

Bent

Nominated for Best New Artist

Who wants to know? These four girls started jamming together in 2001 when they were around 15 years old. Composed of Erna Morcozo (bass), Tinn Naval (drums), Dianne Bolo (vocals) and Azelle Mendoza (bass), Bent's name was conceived after the girls flipped through a thesaurus for other meanings of the word "talent".

And yes, the album's riddled with Christian undertones. "We're not ashamed to be labeled as a Christian rock band," Morcozo says. "I mean, it's true. Why deny it?"

Past achievements include placing second place at the RX Band Breakout and a contest back in their hometown of Taytay, Rizal.

Sounds like: "People have called it 'sweet rock,'" Morcozo laments. "But it's alternative pop."

The band's debut album, "Fragile," is peppered with ruminations on life and love, as if they've ripped from every teenage girl's diary.

Overwhelmed? Yes. "To be nominated with bands like Sugarfree and Kamikazee is just awesome," Morcozo giddily says. "We're not after the award. Just the fact that we're up there with those guys is enough."

"If we don't bring home the award, Sugarfree can," says Morcozo. She'd also want to see Ebe and the boys win. "They've been around for so long, it's time people gave them credit. Plus I love their songs!"

7Foot Jr.

Nominated for Best New Artist, Best Music Video, Album of the Year and Guitarist of the Year

Family values. 7Foot Jr. was formed through classmates, former bandmates and brothers, way back in December 1999. The line-up even used to include Rivermaya's present guitarist, Mike Elgar. They've now settled with Leo Amistoso on vocals and guitars, Frank de Castro on drums, Allan Elgar on guitars and Macky Macaventa on bass.

Original and Indie. One thing was certain even then—the band only wanted to do originals. Combining their musical influences together (which included new wave, alternative, punk and modern rock), the foursome released the single "Mata" in March 2000 and followed it up with "Mahiwagang Oo" over NU.

Prick me! Last December 2002, the band released its album, "Prick Me!," independently. The first single, "Daisy," was launched soon after, accompanied by a music video. Next up was the song "Drive-Inn," which the band calls an "edgy power pop song."

Kapatid

Nominated for Best New Artist, Vocalist of the Year, Guitarist of the Year, Bassist of the Year, Drummer of the Year and Producer of the Year (Bob Aves and Kapatid)

Early beginnings. Three years ago, Karl Roy and Nathan Azarcon would bump into each other at Verve Malate's Tuesday nights jamming sessions. They got together, took in J-hoon Balbuena (drums), and later, Chico Molina (guitars) and gave birth to Kapatid, which would play eclectic music no one would be able to categorize.

Experiment 101. Nathan and Karl may be considered rock veterans, but had their share of start-up blues.

For starters, Molina was an amateur guitarist, and it was his first time to record. Also, the studio's computers were brand new, and the producers were still figuring out how to work the new software.

"They experimented on us," Roy laughs. "It brought some delays, but it turned out well, and it bought us some time to play in small clubs like Big Sky Mind."

Déjà vu. It's not the first time these guys have won awards. Guitarist Ira Cruz is an Awit Awardee. Roy is both an Awit Awardee and a Katha Awardee, and Balbuena was awarded Best Drummer at the 1998 Carlsburg Music Festival in Hong Kong.

Music or mutiny? "My girlfriend's asking if I'm the one [responsible for the vandalisms of the band's logo around the metro]," Roy says. "It could be the Magdalo soldiers, too... but we came out with the logo before they did."

Underground guys. Not that Karl doesn't want to be acknowledged, but he'd much rather stay away from commercialized success and not take part in the whole celebrity bit.

"I'd like to see Ebe Dancel of Sugarfree win," he shares. "He's got this fresh voice, it's clean, and his style is different. It's catchy. I sometimes find myself singing his songs when I hear them."

Kamikazee

Nominated for Best New Artist, Band of the Year, Album of the Year, Best Music Video, Best Album Packaging, Vocalist of the Year, Guitarist of the Year, Bassist of the Year, Drummer of the Year and Producer of the Year (Chito Miranda and Eight Toleran)

Friends before anything else. Jason Astets (bass), Allan Bordeos (drums), Jomal Linao (guitars) Led Zeppelin Tuyay (guitars) and Jay Contreras (vocals) all hung out together at UP, and had *inuman* sessions with Parokya ni Edgar's Chito Miranda.

After forming a band for UP Fine Arts' "Fresh Meat," they christened themselves as "Boyband," and a week later, as "Kamikazee Cornflakes".

Boys just wanna have fun. The band started out as Parokya ni Edgar's front act, and soon, was even funding its own gas and food to get to gigs as far away as Cavite and Nueva Ecija. All in the name of fun.

"*Gustong-gusto kasi naming talaga tumugtog, yun lang,*" Contreras confesses. "*Kung hindi na kasi masaya, di na naming itutuloy tong ginagawa namin. Kung kunwari, mag-away away kami, wala na. Kasi mas matimbang yung* friendship, *eh.*"

That's probably why their comic chemistry onstage has made them so popular. There's no way you could watch a Kamikazee gig without laughing at their side comments and antics.

Album can be found under: "Our sound is R&B rock, new wave sans yung porma," Contreras laughs.

Seriously though, the fans love to label the band punk, but the members themselves are quick to say they wouldn't want to be known as such, since they wouldn't want to insult anyone who's deeply rooted in punk.

Look Ma! They've bagged the award for Video of the Year at the 2003 MTV Pilipinas Awards, and couldn't be happier.

"*Kasi kami gumawa non, araw araw pinagpuyatan, parang* school project! *Tapos makikita kami ng magulang namin* on TV. *Kasi palagi kaming pinapagalitan na late na kami umuuwi, so parang, uy! Nasa* TV *anak ko!*" says Contreras.

They'd win if NU came out with a category for "Most Gay Band."

"*Bakla kaming lina!*" Contreras proclaims. "[But we're not looking forward to hit on anyone at the Rock Awards.] *Kami-kami lang, ayos na. Mapaligiran lang ng boys, ayos na!*"

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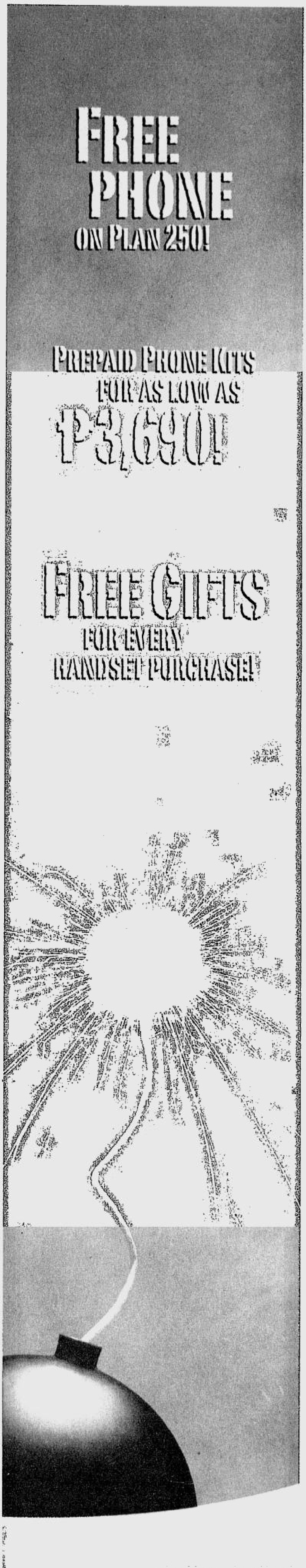
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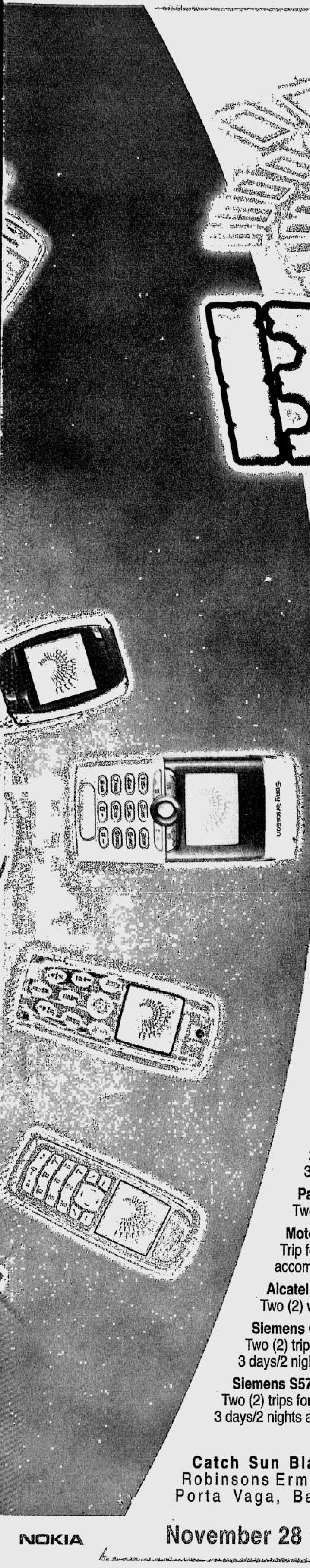

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stylists exposed!

Fashion editors Minelli Bautista, Donna Cuna-Pita and Jenni Epperson bare their trade secrets

By Leslie Ann C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

Jenni Epperson

Chalk

ON JENNI: Halter overlay animal print top P345, inner tank top P225, satin sporty shorts P295

QUIRKY glam. These words have a nice ring to it, but I'm not quite sure what it means. Coming from fashion guru Jenni Epperson, however, I knew it meant something stylish.

Jenni, 32, describes her personal style as something not perfect at all, but when put together, looks beautiful.

"I find beauty in imperfection. Like you can wear a black dress, black bag, coiffed hairdo, but with hot pink shoes. Something a little bit off, something cheeky," she explains.

That's quirky glam for you.

As a stylist, Jenni works with different styles. It can be ghetto as well as edgy. Her favorite is coming up with a catalogue-style look—very polished, but always with a difference.

Four years ago, Jenni ventured into styling. By then, she had left the Linea Italia group and also quit becoming a personal shopper.

Initially, she worked with husband Tom, who happens to be a top-notch photographer. This jumpstarted Jenni's foray into fashion styling and paved the way for her building a good portfolio.

Now definitely one of the more sought-after professionals in the field, Jenni has successfully penetrated media and advertising, and currently sits as the fashion editor of Chalk magazine.

When I sat down with her for a chat, it was obvious that I was talking to someone in love with her work. She had much to share.

"Styling is something you fall into," she says.

ON RISSA: White tank with army print strap P445, cowl neck animal print top P199, cotton shorts P375

But there's a long way to go from being a stylist into becoming a successful one.

"You must have a knack for putting things together, not just clothes and accessories, but people too. As the stylist, you are an integral part of the whole advertising campaign. You give it the look."

Jenni says that with experience, it become second nature to second-guess what's hot and what's not.

Her dream project is a two-fold challenge: there's exploring new looks for versatile Madonna on one hand, and giving a certain oomph to the "regular Jane" on the other.

Jenni draws parallelisms when talking about Freeway.

"Freeway connotes being free-spirited. A little adventurous but with a bit of control. Just like in freeways, there are certain speed limits, but faster ones."

Jenni then proceeds to style Rissa in hot pants, layered tank tops, and a lot of bling-blings.

Minelli Bautista

Meg

ON MINELLI: White spaghetti crochet top P795, short skirt with back pocket and flap P795

Minelli Bautista, 24, has always loved going to the malls. But she never thought that one day, she would be paid to do what she loves best—shopping.

After graduating with a Behavioral Science degree from De La Salle University, Minelli stayed briefly with the beauty section of Teen magazine before taking her current throne as fashion editor of Meg magazine.

Her personal favorite is a basic white tee, because it can go with anything.

She confesses to being a bag- and shoe-lover, and never leaves home without a watch.

She thinks we're all stylists in our own right. "Everyday we go out of the house and we dress ourselves. We are our own stylists. The only difference is I style other people too."

Minelli gets a feel of what's in style by observing everyone, young and old alike, and by reading countless magazines.

Her dream project is to style Madonna, as Madonna can look young or old and not only get away with anything, but singlehandedly create a following as well.

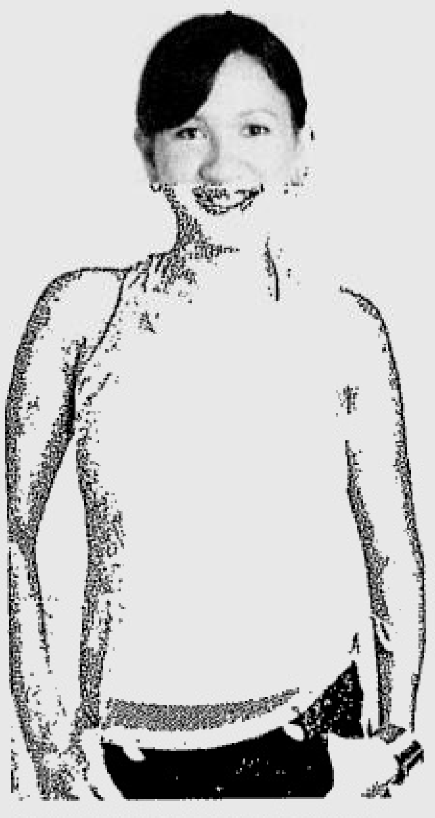
Trendy. Classic. Funky. Romantic. For Minelli, Freeway is everybody's one-stop shop. Any person can go in there and find something for himself or herself.

For this shoot, Minelli chose to dress up Rissa in a classic black velour skirt matched with a funky glittery top and a yellow halter.

Perfectly content to be backstage and offcam, Minelli was gun-shy to pose for lensman Ken Go. But we think she's perfectly ready for the limelight.

Donna Cuna-Pita

Cosmopolitan



ON DONNA: Sleeveless mesh top with ruching and inner halter P495, ruch cargo capri pants P975

Who would ever think that Donna, 27, was an erstwhile preschool teacher?

A Psychology graduate from Ateneo, she was once a *viajera* too, buying clothes from Hongkong and Bangkok and supplying a friend who owns a stall in Greenhills.

But what's past is past. Today, Donna Cuna-Pita is the fashion editor of Cosmopolitan magazine.

Donna searches for words to describe her personal style. It is a fusion of her wardrobe and a touch of what's trendy. In the end, she settles for "unique and unclassifiable"—much like the fashion styles of her icons, Kate Moss and Mila Rovic.

Her dream subject though is that character known as Mystica. Why her? "Because her style is too flashy. I want to see what she looks like in tailored clothes and pearls."

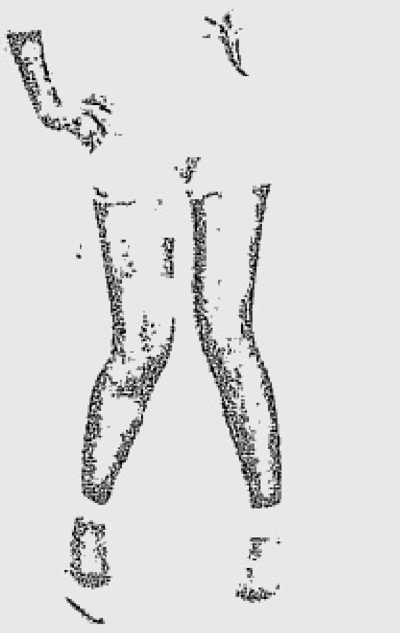
Hmm, I wonder too.

In her work, Donna abides by this rule of thumb: "Be honest with your body. Only then can you play up your assets and downplay your flaws."

To up-and-coming stylists, she advises openness of mind—to every kind of fashion, even a style you wouldn't consider wearing.

"Once you label something as *baduy*, you'll stop learning," she says.

Donna picked out a playful pink and blue outfit for Rissa, which matches her image of Freeway as a trendy and young fashion outpost.



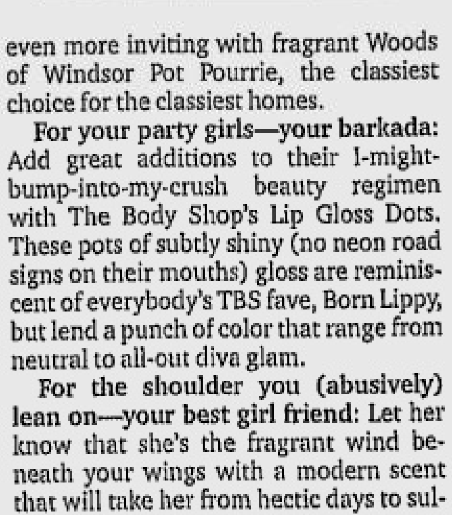
ON RISSA: 3/4-sleeved glittered knit top P545, blue lace halter P399, satin sporty shorts P295, arm band P35, white watch P495, mesh socks P95

ON RISSA: 3/4-sleeved, glittered off-shoulder knit top P545, yellow halter P295, velvet miniskirt with net pocket P445, bronze earrings, P295

Freeway branches are located in Glorietta 1; Abanao Square-Baguio; SM North Edsa, Bacoor, Bicutan, Lucena, Southmall, Sucat and Pampanga; Alimall-Cubao; Robinsons at Galleria, Novaliches, Pasig and Manila; Festival Supermall Alabang; and Pavillion Mall Biñan.

PHOTOS BY KEN GO
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY BARBIE CHAN
CLOTHES BY FREEWAY
SPECIAL THANKS TO SHEREE GOTUACO AND NINA MONTELIBANO

List of Christmas gift ideas



Lora
Gabol

IT took me an hour of decorating a Christmas tree, two Christmas CDs and a drop in temperature to realize that yes, Santa's favorite season is just around the corner—and I have not one Christmas present to show for it! I am now officially in a state of panic.

You see, any shopping expertise I may have—from knowing every nook and cranny of every mall in Manila to sniffing out hard-to-find buys—go bust at the sight of the entire city's population fighting over store stocks. What can I say? My purchasing power is at its maximum in a non-chaotic environment, aka, not the shopping mall during the Christmas rush.

But now, for the first time, the vain streak in other people seems to be working in my favor. Thanks to the closet *kikay* in each and every one of the people on my Christmas list ("manly" men included), there is no need to literally raid every store—looks like I'll be going through a smaller number of doors this year. You guessed it, I will soon be a semi-permanent fixture in beauty counters, searching for beauty loot to give away.

THE BODY Shop's Lip Gloss Dots—from neutral to all-out diva glam

Some ideas from my own list to yours.

For the women in your life

For eternally immaculately made up mom: Our "classic" Pond's Cold Cream—loving mothers were brought up to believe that anything less than pancake foundation is not to be considered make-up. Help her change her mind with Shu Uemura's 2nd Skin Veil Water Perfect Water In-Cake foundation, a sure winner that gives coverage while allowing skin to breathe. Mom will also be glad to hear that the Depsea Water content in this perfectly light foundation has youth-preserving properties, too.

For anti-aging junkie *lola*: Aging gracefully becomes possible with, no, not cosmetic surgery, but Avon Anew Line and Wrinkle Corrector. Gram will be looking forward to more birthdays with this magic potion on her dresser. Doesn't smell like "old lady's cream" (I'm sure you know what I mean), too.

For kikay newbie sister: Fill her first vanity kit with girly-girl cosmetic line Pout. She'll love experimenting with yummy lip glosses, bold eye color selection and especially with the fool-proof Flush Blush that gives cheeks a flirty wash of color. The feminine packaging is sure to be a hit, too.

For your gossip buddies—your cousins: Give them something to make the gabbing even juicier—no, not the latest from "The Buzz," but delicious lip candy that will keep their lips pretty even after hours of *chika*. The yummy colors and flavors of Lancôme Juicy Tubes will make talking even more fun.

For the decorating addicts—your aunts: My *titas* aren't just conscious about their faces and bodies, but of their living rooms, too! Make their homes even more inviting with fragrant Woods of Windsor Pot Pourrie, the classiest choice for the classiest homes.

For your party girls—your barkada: Add great additions to their I-might-bump-into-my-crush beauty regimen with The Body Shop's Lip Gloss Dots. These pots of subtly shiny (no neon road signs on their mouths) gloss are reminiscent of everybody's TBS fave, Born Lippy, but lend a punch of color that range from neutral to all-out diva glam.

For the shoulder you (abusively) lean on—your best girl friend: Let her know that she's the fragrant wind beneath your wings with a modern scent that will take her from hectic days to sultry nights. Fashionistas are all raving about sexy Stella by Stella McCartney. One whiff and she'll know why. A bonus: So will the guys around her.

For the men in your life

For Harrison Ford die-hard Dad: Give him what it takes to be suave at any age. Clarins Men is every man's secret to being the most well-groomed man he can be. Father dear will love the clean, crisp scent of the line's Antiperspirant Deodorant Stick, while mom will be dying to slow dance if only to sniff Smooth Shave on daddy's cheek.

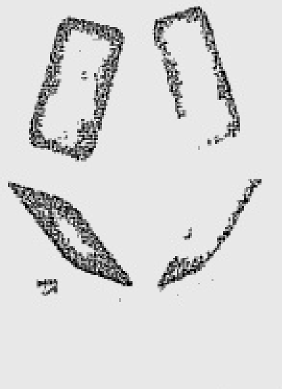
For your own superman grandpa: Thank him for always knowing what you need, when you need it with a well-deserved massage made even more relaxing with Badger Sore Muscle Rub. His aching joints from "flying around" to save your day will thank you for the gesture.

For your high-school heartthrob brother: Surprise him with something to attract even more admirers with—Morgan de Toi Homme. This "hunky" scent will perfectly complement his boy-next-door charm, and will get your "you-are-no-longer-my-baby-brother" message across.

For the guys who watched you "bloom"—your male cousins and boy buds: The guys who taught you the basics of basketball and wrestling need some help in racking up *pogi* points with the chicks. Teach them new ways to style their hair (F4 look, anyone?) and complete the makeover with fab styling products from L'Oreal.

For the one who clears up all misconceptions about men—your best guy friend: Give him the next best thing to an all-you-can-eat *isaw* buffet: the new "*sikreto ng mga guwapo*," Phytomer Homme. He'll be a worthy pseudo-date (if you happen to be alone for the holidays) in no time. And oh, he might take the hint to get rid of the stubble, too.

For your better half—your boyfriend: Get him excited for dress-up romantic dates with an equally elegant scent like Davidoff Echo. This addicting scent is the perfect accessory to a suit, you can bet he won't ever complain of those "stuffy" outfits again! You'll love smelling it off him and he'll love that even more, won't he?



FOR MOM—Shu Uemura foundation with youth-preserving properties

For yourself

Treat yourself with the ultimate skin-pampering kit, Prescriptives' Dermapolish System, and you can bet you'll look forward to next year's Christmas shopping—with or without the hordes of people that go with it!

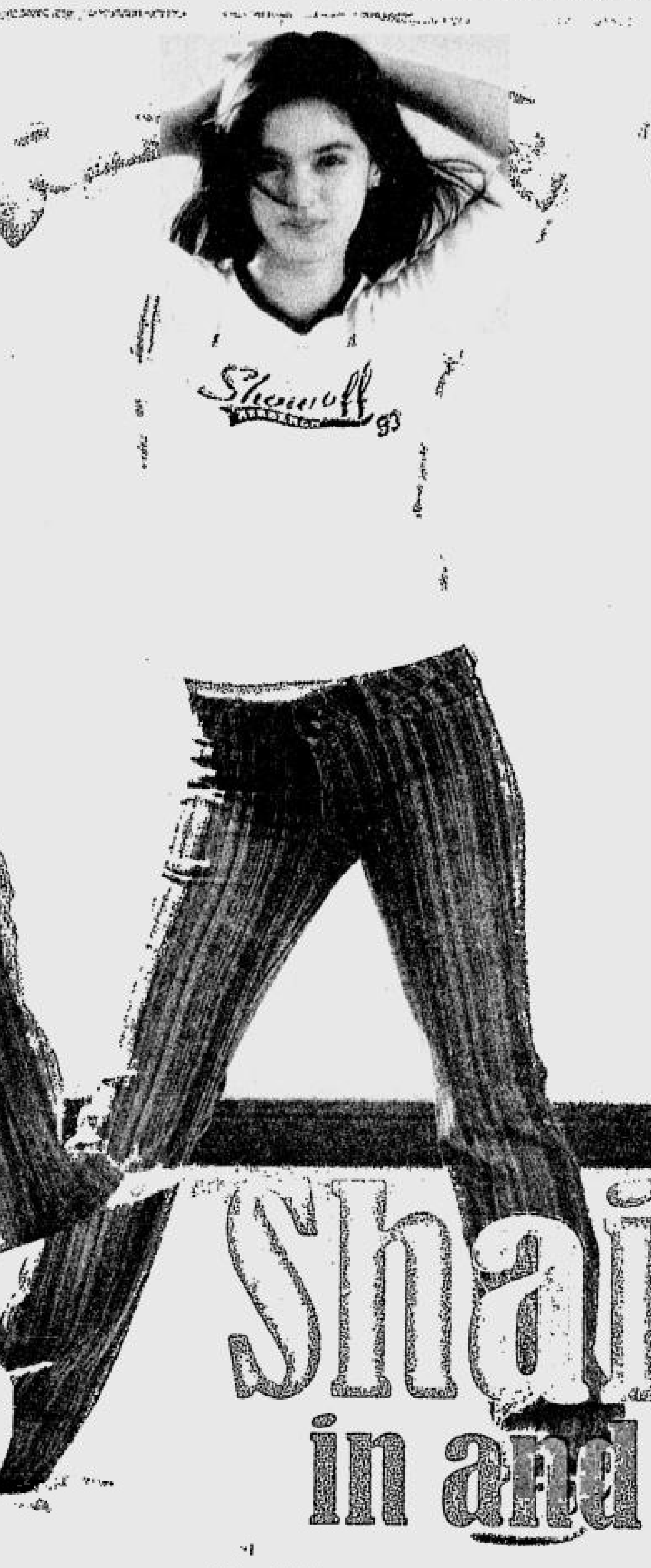
Happy Christmas Shopping!

Prescriptives, Davidoff, Phytomer, Clarins, Lancôme, Shu Uemura, Stella Mc Cartney at Rustan's Makati; Pout at Beauty Bar, Rockwell Powerplant; Badger Woods of Windsor at Essenses, Rustan's; Morgan de Toi at Robinson's Department Store; L'Oreal at PCX and selected salons; Avon at SM Megamall.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare @hotmail.com

Herbench's young image model has, slowly and steadily, moved out of sister Vina Morales' shadow

CREW-NECK shirt with elbow sleeves (P329.75), and striped boot-cut Overhauled jeans (P649.50)



CREW-NECK shirt with raglan sleeves and Herbench patch (P329), and long and slim clam diggers (P549.50)

BLUE tank top (P289) and stretch boot-cut Overhauled jeans with ribbon belt (P599.50)

Shaina in and out of the spotlight

Text by Pam Pastor and Jason Doplito
Photos by Romy Homillada

"I DON'T sleep *na*," 14-year-old actress and Herbench girl Shaina Garcia Magdayao says of her hectic schedule.

Apart from being a full-time second year high-school student at Our Lord's Grace Montessori, she spends a lot of time taping for her television shows. Her days become even more packed when she is working on movie projects.

"I usually just rest in the car," she says.

But the load doesn't faze her a bit. "I like what I'm doing. *Siguro yun yung importante, kaya kaya kong* i-balance."

Perhaps it can be said that Shaina was destined for stardom. She had commercials even before she was a year old. Then, when older sister Vina Morales was busy pursuing her show-biz career, she was always watching from the sidelines, soaking it all up, awakening her own passion for performing.

When the first TV offer came, she naturally snapped it up. Now she can't even remember when she gave her first autograph.

Slowly and steadily, Shaina crept out of her sister's shadow and began to build her own name.

Not to say that she started neglecting her studies. It wasn't always easy, but she has managed to adjust.

"When I was in sixth grade, I was surprised to see that people had vandalized my name on the bathroom walls," she recalls.

The culprits were punished and Shaina just shrugged it off.

Experiences like this haven't changed her passion for studying.

"I go to school because I want to learn. I want to be with my friends," she says.

This girl has big dreams, and not just for her career in show business. Ultimately, she wants to become a doctor.

"I want to take up medicine, *basta* anything related. I want to become a pediatrician. I'm thinking of starting with child psychology. I love kids," she explains.

This love has been made stronger by her relationship with her niece and nephews. Her eyes sparkle when she talks about them.

"I take care of my *pamangkins*. I'm their nanny," she says.

Shaina is a family girl. In fact, she describes her perfect day as "hanging out at my sister's house, just spending it with family."

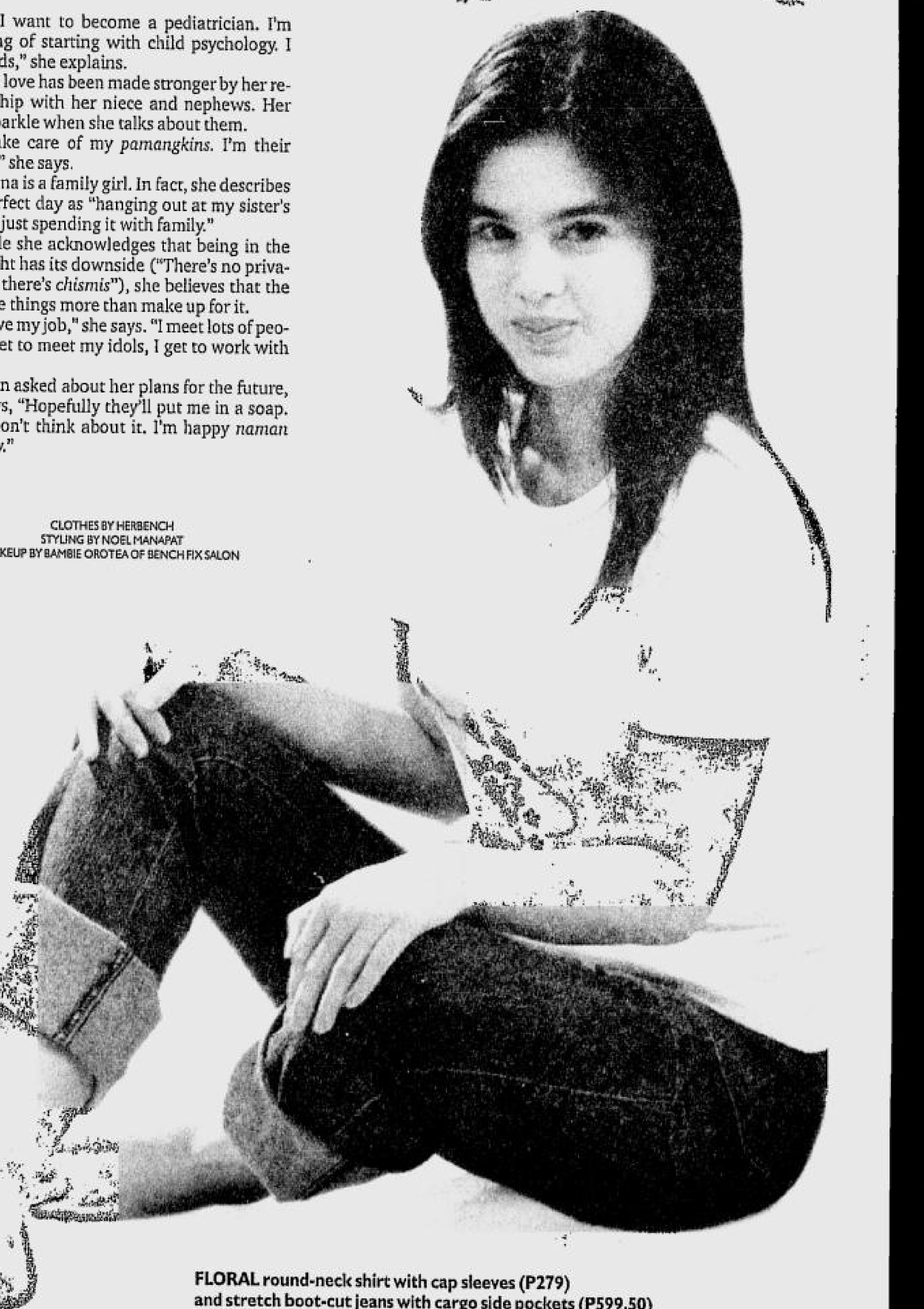
While she acknowledges that being in the limelight has its downside ("There's no privacy and there's *chismis*"), she believes that the positive things more than make up for it.

"I love my job," she says. "I meet lots of people. I get to meet my idols, I get to work with them."

When asked about her plans for the future, she says, "Hopefully they'll put me in a soap. But I don't think about it. I'm happy *naman* for now."

CLOTHES BY HERBENCH
STYLING BY NOEL MANAPAT
MAKEUP BY BAMBIE OROTEA OF BENCH FIX SALON

RED and black knitted long-sleeved top with woven collar and sleeves (P649.75) and beige boot-cut, low-rise jeans (P499.50)


FLORAL round-neck shirt with cap sleeves (P279) and stretch boot-cut jeans with cargo side pockets (P599.50)

Make your own 2bU

to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you!

IF you could be 2bU! editor for a day, what articles would you print?

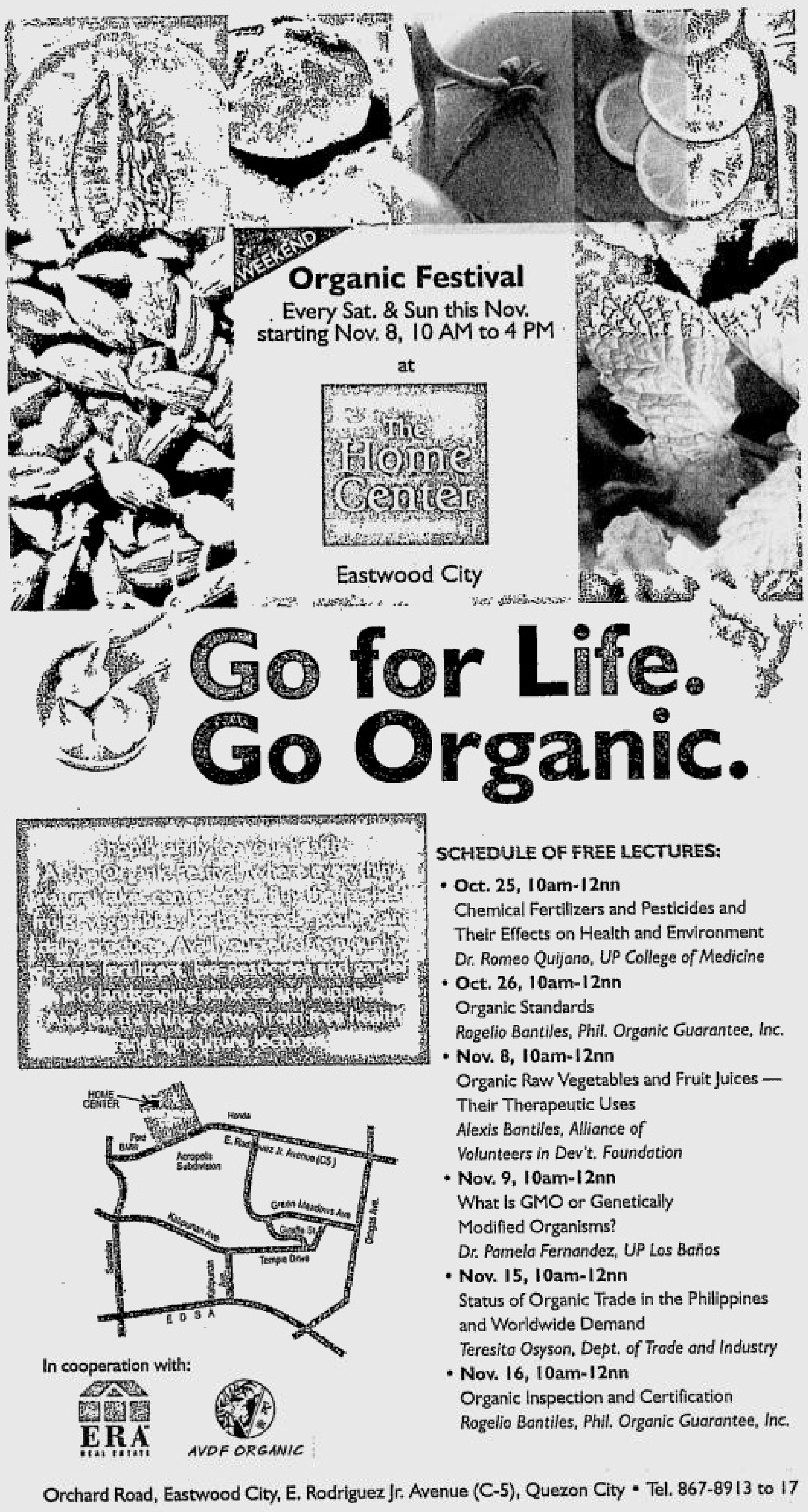
A story on Hilary Duff? A feature on your favorite band? An interview with a young athlete? Comic book reviews? Recipes for disastrous dates?

We know you've got great ideas, so start sending them in.

Make our page your canvas. Make your own 2bU!

If your ideas are chosen, exciting prizes will be yours!

E-mail your ideas to Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Please include your name, age, school, contact information and photo.



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SCHEDULE OF FREE LECTURES:

- **Oct. 25, 10am-12nn**
  Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides and Their Effects on Health and Environment
  Dr. Romeo Quijano, UP College of Medicine
- **Oct. 26, 10am-12nn**
  Organic Standards
  Rogelio Bantiles, Phil. Organic Guarantee, Inc.
- **Nov. 8, 10am-12nn**
  Organic Raw Vegetables and Fruit Juices — Their Therapeutic Uses
  Alexis Bantiles, Alliance of Volunteers in Dev't. Foundation
- **Nov. 9, 10am-12nn**
  What Is GMO or Genetically Modified Organisms?
  Dr. Pamela Fernandez, UP Los Baños
- **Nov. 15, 10am-12nn**
  Status of Organic Trade in the Philippines and Worldwide Demand
  Teresita Osyson, Dept. of Trade and Industry
- **Nov. 16, 10am-12nn**
  Organic Inspection and Certification
  Rogelio Bantiles, Phil. Organic Guarantee, Inc.

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OPENING HOURS. MON-FRI: 8:00AM-7:00PM SATURDAY: 8:00AM-5:00PM

*approved by DTI-NCR

Win tickets to Limpbizkit concert!

ARE you wild enough to slam, rock and body surf at the much-awaited blood pressure-boosting live experience of the year?

If you're game and want free tickets to the "Limpbizkit Live in Manila" concert on Dec. 9 at the Ultra Open Field, join 2bU!'s "Show Your Wild Side" contest.

Tell us the craziest and most outrageous thing you've done in a concert! One lucky winner will win two tickets each week, starting Nov. 19 to Dec. 3.

You can send us your story via e-mail at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph.

Include your name, age, address and cell phone number. The winners will be published in 2bU! every Wednesday.

To claim your prize, present your ID when claiming tickets at Tribal Gear in SM Manila from Monday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Look for Carla Salazar or call 5281976 for more inquiries.

Limpbizkit tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets at very affordable prices: Premiere, P1,650; Deluxe, P950; and P550. Call 9115555 or 3735734.

"LimpBizkit Live in Manila" is presented by Tribal Gear in cooperation with Magic 89.9 DWTM, 103.5 K-Lite, 99.5 RT, RX 93.1, NU 107 and Joey 92.3.

Enjoy 10 percent discount on LimpBizkit's limited edition "Results May Vary" album with DVD, or get a free P550 LimpBizkit concert ticket for every P1,000 purchase of any Tribal Gear.

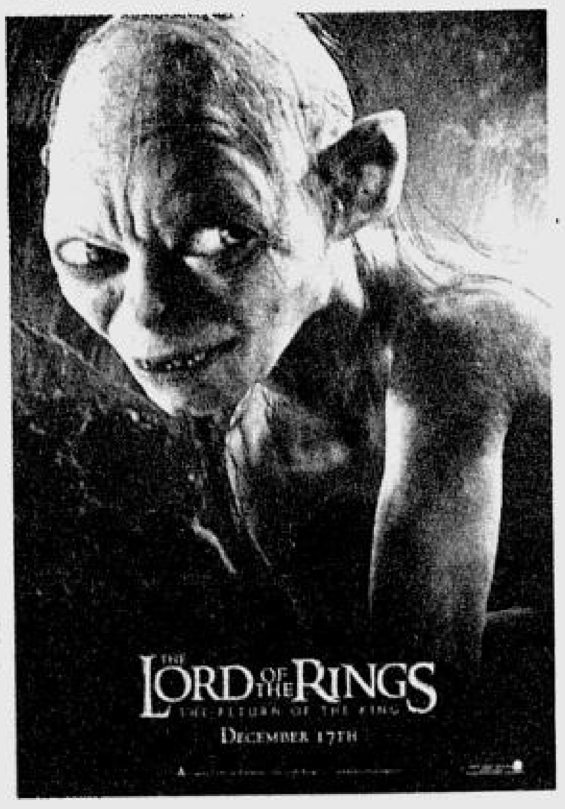
Tribal stores are located at SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Manila, SM Sta. Mesa, SM Southmall, SM Bacoor and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

This week's winner

Llewelyn M. Malolos, Sto. Tomas, Batangas:

"The craziest and most outrageous thing I've done in a concert was to jump from a 15 to 20 ft-high bleacher down to the lower box section. It was Bush's concert in October 1997. I had second thoughts about jumping, but when I saw my friends already down there, I decided to jump anyway, not knowing that the floor was wet. I slipped and had a bad fall, injuring both my feet. I could hardly walk afterwards. The funny thing was, I waited for the concert to end before I decided to bring myself to the hospital. Of course, I ended up in crutches."

2bU!'s Lord of the Rings contest



THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE RETURN OF THE KING
DECEMBER 17TH

WILL you be there when they battle for Middle Earth?

"The battle for Helm's Deep is over, the battle for Middle Earth is about to begin," so said Gandalf at the end of "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers."

For Frodo and the rest of the Fellowship, the stakes are higher and the battles bigger in the final chapter, "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."

2bU! is challenging Tolkien fans to answer a few questions every week until December on the popular trilogy. At stake is a couple of invites to the special advance screening of "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" on Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. at Robinsons Galleria Cinema 2.

Test your Tolkien trivia with this week's short quiz to remind you of what's happening in Middle Earth this year:

1. Who is Gollum referring to as "she" at the end of "The Two Towers"?

2. Who is the father of Boromir and Faramir?

3. What is the "Flame of the West"?

E-mail your answers to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph.

Answers and winners will be announced next week. Names of those who answered correctly will be chosen at random.

The special advance screening is presented by lawyers.com.ph, New Line Cinema and Pioneer Films in cooperation with the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER. Also presented in part by C Interactive Digital Entertainment.

For ticket reservations and inquiries, send e-mail to rotk_tickets@yahoo.com.

Philippine Marketing Association Inc. presents The 24th Agora Awards

Messages

I SALUTE the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) for successfully mounting the 24th Agora Awards, which hails the country's top marketing professionals.

This prestigious event has given due recognition to the men and women of the marketing profession who have attained success despite numerous challenges and obstacles. Their personal triumphs are the country's own for these contribute to the development of the marketing industry and the nation's quest for economic stability. May your success stories motivate fellow Filipinos to aim for excellence in all their endeavors.

I commend the PMA for continuously supporting the business community and its efforts to uplift the quality of life of our people. I enjoin PMA and its allied organizations to help the government in all its endeavors.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

ON BEHALF of the Board of Judges, I am extending our heartfelt congratulations to the 24th Agora Awardees.

Indeed, judging the nominees in the Agora Awards is a painstaking effort, even excruciating at times when judgments are just too close to call. We are glad it is over.

We are confident that our choices are truly fitting role models of excellence in the marketing field and profession, in keeping with the creed and standard of the Agora Awards.

Again, congratulations to the winners.

ATTY. JOSE A. LAPID, JR.
President, LAPID FOODS
Chairman of the Board of Judges

THE AGORA Awards is the culminating project of the Philippine Marketing Association to give distinction to outstanding companies, organizations, or individuals that have made significant contributions to the growth of marketing in the country. An AGORA Award to a Marketing Company of the Year like San Miguel Corporation is a living proof that SMC has made significant contributions in marketing excellent products or services to many different Filipino consumers. An AGORA Award to Outstanding Entrepreneurs like Freddie Go of Goldilocks and Jonathan "Jay" Aldeguer of Islands Souvenirs is a testimony to the fact that they have transformed their organizations to where they are right now - highly respected and highly valued because of their superior products. To Manuel Quiogue, Marketing Manager of the Year, an AGORA Award has recognized his talents in transforming the company where he currently belongs, and the previous companies he used to work with, to a higher level of marketing achievement. To Catherine "Karen" de Asis, Educator of the Year, an AGORA Award, is a priceless recognition of her mission to affect people's lives like marketing professionals at the graduate level and readers of her noteworthy articles in publications. And to Metrobank Foundation, Advocacy Marketer of the Year, an AGORA Award is a recognition of its mission to raise the standards of education in the country, not to mention the numerous advocacy and socially responsible projects the Foundation has instituted for the past many years.

There are other AGORA Awards like Exporter of the Year and Asia-Pacific Filipino Marketer of the Year - but these awards are granted, including the current ones, when the right company, institution, or person comes along and shines with impeccable achievements. In other words, the AGORA Awards is conferred only when you are outstanding -- so that you may join the league of AGORA Awardees who are "Who's Who in the Philippines and in the Asia Pacific." It is conferred only to excellent Philippine companies that have been part of the way of life of the Filipino people. Such is the AGORA Awards.

Congratulations to the winners!

DR. LEONARDO R. GARCIA JR., CPM
President
Philippine Marketing Association

THE AGORA Awards, spearheaded by the Philippine Marketing Association, has always served as an emblem of Filipino ingenuity and excellence. This event reminds us all that as a people, we are achievers. Filipinos excel in various fields be it marketing and business, arts and culture, sports, science and technology, and more. Our history boasts of inspiring achievements, reinforcing the truth that we have the power to realize our goals and make our dreams come true.

The winners of the Agora Awards, past and present, are living proof that we have the immense capacity and resilience to rise above any challenge.

We laud the Agora awardees and the nominees for their remarkable achievements, for keeping the faith despite obstacles, for bringing honor and pride to our nation.

The stories of their personal and professional triumph ignite a sense of nationalism in us all. In spite of the tumult and uncertainties that haunt our nation, their success indicates that there is hope. And together, we Filipinos can build an ideal nation.

My experience with the Agora Awards Committee has truly been enriching. I salute all its members, the Board of Judges and everyone who has contributed to the staging of this noble event. I know that you have all given your best to make The Agora Awards possible… thank you very much.

Congratulations to all the Agora awardees and to the Philippine Marketing Association. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

MYLENE ABIVA-SAZON
Director
Agora Awards 2003

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The Philippine Marketing Association, The Agora Awards, and the marketing profession

THE AGORA Awards represents the pinnacle of marketing achievement. The distinguished awardees we will meet this evening are exemplary professionals who have pursued and achieved excellence in marketing. The Association and its members are honored to bestow the coveted Agora Awards upon these deserving role models.

The PMA and the Birth of Professional Marketing in the Philippines

The years before the inception of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) might well be referred to as the "dark ages" of marketing as a profession in this country. When people thought of marketing, they thought of selling or distributing products. Perhaps they conjured up images of fast-talking salesmen making misleading sales pitches for poor quality products. Marketing practitioners were not able to step forward and proudly present themselves as professionals in a field serving the Filipino people.

But that all changed in 1954 when 15 brave pioneers pooled their efforts and private funds to create the PMA. The new non-stock, non-profit organization had as its explicit long-term goal to promote marketing as a noble profession and to provide high-level guidance to the government for issues related to marketing.

From the beginning, the PMA was committed to the belief that economic and social progress is intricately linked to the free enterprise system. These beliefs are embodied in the PMA credo: "our country's economic progress can be best achieved in a climate of free enterprise" and "business and industry can best contribute to economic progress" and social well-being through enlightened self-interest. The PMA represented something totally new in the country: an organization firmly grounded in integrity and honesty and committed to marketing as a professional enterprise.

The PMA also believed that marketing should be recognized and appreciated as both an art and science and that it was in truth a profession and to their communities, and to show consumers that they were not motivated solely by the profit motive. The Association has always strived to do all that it cant to improve the quality of life for the Filipino people.

The Agora Awards: The Genesis

During the late 1970s, as it approached its Silver Anniversary, the PMA began searching for a flagship project, something that would differentiate the Association, honor outstanding marketing practitioners, and further professionalize the field of marketing. During the fateful year 1977, the three key members of Long-Range Planning Committee began to meet regularly to brainstorm and evaluate alternatives: the late Ernesto G. Roceles (1976-1977 PMA President), Renato S. Esguerra (1974 PMA President), now Professor at De La Salle University), and Guillermo T. Garcia (1974 EVP now Chairman of the Board of Adformatix).

Their usual venue for informal dinners and open discussions was the old Jade Vine Restaurant on United Nations Avenue. One evening Garcia proposed the idea of creating an award that would transform the image of the marketing profession. The new awards would be prestigious and specifically designed to professionalize the image of the marketing profession. All three men immediately understood that the concept, which would eventually evolve into what we now know as Agora Awards, was a good one. They endorsed it enthusiastically.

However, the gestation period was prolonged and it was couple more years before the project finally came to fruition under the leadership of 1979 PMA President Agustin Bengzon (now Undersecretary of Communications). The term "Agora" was eventually selected to describe the new awards. And what an apt metaphor! The Agora, located near the Acropolis in ancient Athens, was the site of buying and selling in the community and an important precursor of the free enterprise system.

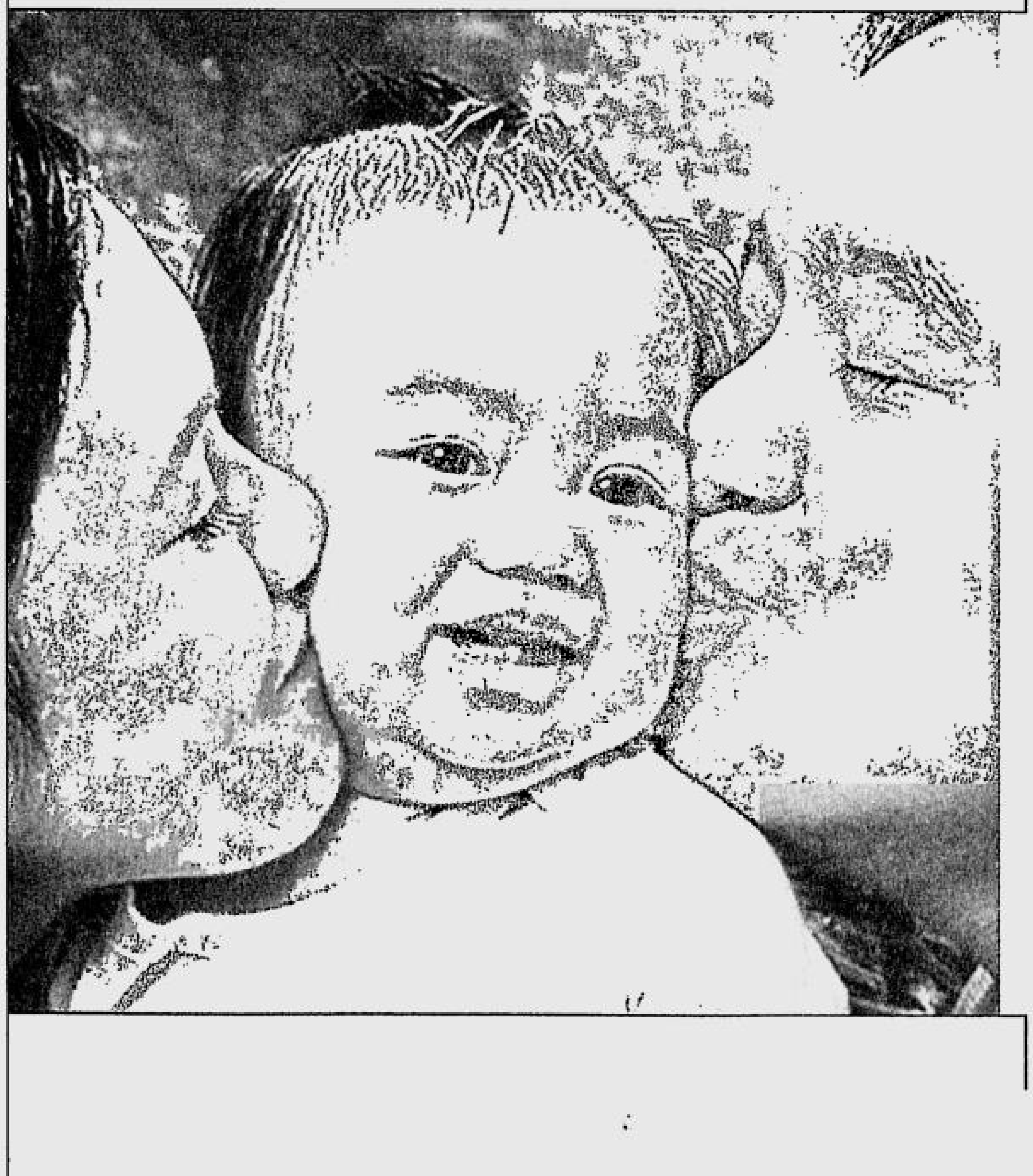
Ernie Roceles' publication of Agora: The Philippine Journal of Marketing turned our to be the catalysts, and it was during the Association's silver Anniversary year that the first Agora Awards were held. The 1979 awards committee, co-chaired by Willie Garcia and Clarita Ordoñez, settled on the three key categories of Marketing Management, Marketing Education, and Entrepreneurship and developed the procedural framework that has stood as the model ever since.

The Tradition and Future Promise

Since their inception in 1979, the Agora Awards have honored many distinguished individuals and companies who have made significant contributions to the marketing profession. Over the years, the categories of Export Marketing (1986), and Marketing Company of the Year were added. In 1989, the Entrepreneurship category was segmented into Large-Scale, Medium-Scale, and Small-Scale.

More recently (1997), the Asia Pacific Agora Awards for Marketing Excellence have given the Awards an international dimension. The latter development was a logical outgrowth of PMA becoming a founding member of the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation in 1992, along with 12 National Marketing Associations from the region. Significantly, it was during the Centennial Celebration of the Philippine nation that the PMA "exported" the Agora Awards to members of the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation, who have enthusiastically adopted this Filipino-originated award of marketing excellence.

At the start of the new millennium, PMA proudly welcomes this year's Agora Awardees into the illustratious company of previous winners, representing a "Who's Who" of the Marketing profession in this country. Each year, the torch is passed, the flames of excellence showing the way, always highlighting and rewarding Filipino ingenuity and innovation in the field of marketing. The PMA, now on its 48th year, looks forward to continuing to use the Agora Awards as a platform for serving the marketing profession and the Filipino people.



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Marketing Company of the Year

San Miguel Corporation

Long-awaited recognition

FOR A COMPANY that has been in existence for as long as people can remember, bagging the award on its first nomination is definitely worth the wait.

San Miguel Corp., this year's Agora Marketing Company of the Year is best known for its manufacturing excellence and world-class quality products. The name itself has become part of Filipino identity, a name that carries prestige and influence.

SMC's winning entries for marketing innovations with high, medium, and low advertising budget and promotions earned the company this much-appreciated award. The company trimmed down its entries to three products with topnotch marketing plans: San Mig Light for high advertising budget category, Magnolia Inc. for medium advertising budget category, and Monterey Foods Corp. for low advertising budget category.

The company's entries could be numerous what with its penchant for something that would touch the human spirit. It proved difficult for them to zero in on the three products mentioned considering its size and wide array of product offerings.

FROM left: Mylene Abiva-Sazon, director-Agora Awards, Ramon Ang, president San Miguel Corp., Edith Dy Chiao, category head for marketing company of the year, and Menlou Bibonia, vice president for marketing, San Miguel Corp.

PROGRAMME

Theme: "Building A Better Philippines"

Part I: Pre-Function

6:00pm Cocktails and Cutting of Ribbon of Exhibit at the Foyer

7:15pm Ushering In / Seating of Guests

7:30pm Invocation

7:32pm Philippine National Anthem

7:35pm Welcome Remarks Ms. Von Hizon
Program Chair / PMA Exec. Vice President

7:40pm President's Message DR. LEONARDO R. GARCIA
PMA President

7:45pm Dinner

Part II: The 24th Agora Awards

8:30pm Opening Theme:
"Kaisa-Pilipinas Kong Mahal" Dance Medley

8:35pm Congratulatory Message Ms. Mylene Abiva-Sazon
Director, 24th Agora Awards

8:40pm Introduction of Board of Judges Mr. Jojo Ajero
Search Chair, 24th Agora Awards
Speech Atty. Jose A. Lapid, Jr.
Chairman of the Board of Judges

8:45pm First Award :
Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education
Acceptance Speech Ms. Catherine V. de Asis
Professor & Marketing Director
Graduate School of Business
De La Salle University
Dance number accompanied by live instruments
PAMANA Dance Troupe
Second Award :
Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship
Medium Scale :
Acceptance Speech Mr. Jonathan Jay P. Aldeguer
President
Islands Souvenirs
Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship: Large Scale :
Acceptance Speech Mr. Freddie M. Go
President
Goldilocks Bakeshop
Song Number :
"Ako'y Pilipino" Singer with Video Support
Third Award :
Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Advocacy
Acceptance Speech Dr. Placido L. Mapa
President
Metrobank Foundation, Inc.
Song Number with Dance Duo: Singer & PAMANA Dance "Handog Ng Pilipino Sa Mundo" Troupe
Fourth Award :
Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management
Acceptance Speech Mr. Manuel P. Quiogue
President & COO
GMA Marketing & Productions, Inc.
Dance Number : PAMANA Dance Troupe
"Pagdiwata"
Fifth Award :
Marketing Company of the Year
Acceptance Speech Mr. Ramon Ang
President
San Miguel Corporation

9:30pm Tribute Toast and Encore Agora 2003 Awardees
(with confetti) Dr. Nards Garcia, Ms. Mylene Sazon and Mr. Jojo Ajero with Pamana Dance Troupe

9:35pm FINALE :
"Tagumpay Nating Lahat" Dance Ensemble

The 2003 Agora Awards Board of Judges

Atty. Jose A. Lapid, Jr.
President
Lapid Foods Inc.
Chairman of the Board of Judges

Corazon D.Ong
Vice Chairman
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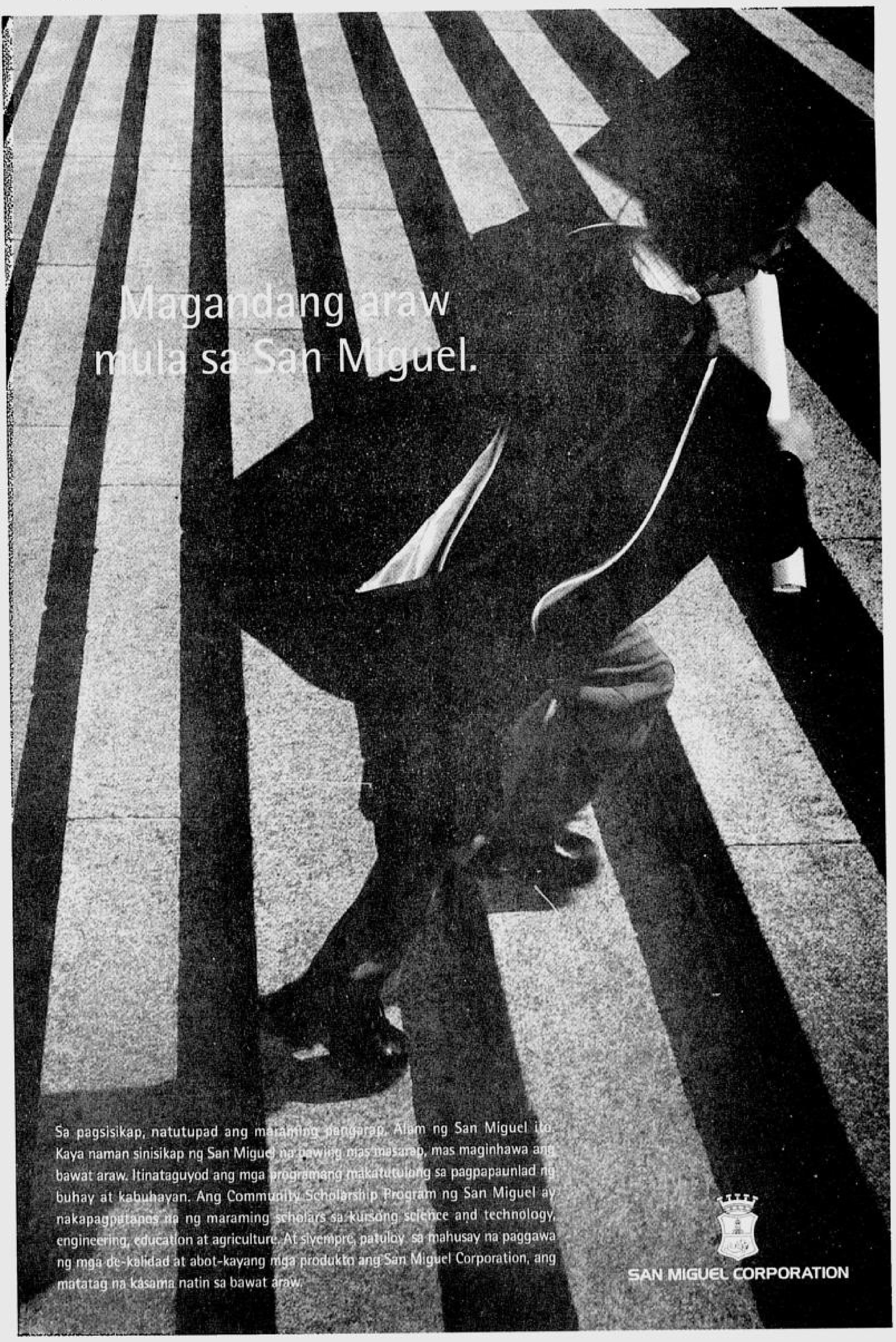

Sa pagsisikap, natutupad ang maraming pangarap. Alam ng San Miguel ito. Kaya naman sinisikap ng San Miguel na gawing mas masarap, mas maginhawa ang bawat araw. Itinataguyod ang mga programang makatutulong sa pagpapaunlad ng buhay at kabuhayan. Ang Community Scholarship Program ng San Miguel ay nakapagpatapos na ng maraming scholars sa kursong science and technology, engineering, education at agriculture. At siyempre, patuloy sa mahusay na paggawa ng mga de-kalidad at abot-kayang mga produkto ang San Miguel Corporation, ang matatag na kasama natin sa bawat araw.

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management

Manuel 'Meckoy' P. Quiogue

President and COO, GMA Marketing and Productions Inc.

Understanding the consumer

HIS resume speaks for his colorful career which spans four decades. He is one of the very few people who truly knows marketing by heart. He has turned mediocre to exceptional. Or to be more poetical, turning stone into gold.

Manuel "Meckoy" Quiogue, an AB Economics graduate, is gifted with a mix of marketing acumen, good-old fashioned logic, and sheer talent that propelled him to be one of the best marketing persons in the industry.

At present, Quiogue calls the shots at GMA network's Marketing and Productions Inc.

"I always looked at plans from the point of view of my consumer or as a viewer," Quiogue said of his deep understanding of the marketing business.

He was with Uniliver as brand manager and group product manager when he pioneered the concept of self-liquidating promotions for a detergent brand for the company. This is also where he developed his marketing expertise.

But it is in J. Walter Thompson that he learned the fundamentals of advertising.

It was during the time of Quiogue, who sat as president of JWT, that the agency bagged major accounts like Ayala Land, Duty Free, Globe Telecom, and Philippine Airlines. This feat brought JWT to the top spot among advertising agencies in the country.

He said marketing is 50 percent common sense "and a feel of what would work." He keeps himself abreast about new things or what the market is into. His children are sometimes his points of reference on what's going to work for the consumers.

During that time also, when JWT Asia won the Media Magazine's Agency of the Year award, while the Philippine group was the top choice for the JWT's Agency of the Year within its regional offices in Asia.

In the 1960s, Quiogue started his career in marketing. In the early 1990s, he started making commercials for the leading companies operating in the country. And by mid-1990s he started airing them.

Because of his apparent feel of the industry, Quiogue served as president of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers in 1984 and chairman of the board the following year.

Quiogue established the country's first truly merchandised apparel firm as president of Jourdan et Cie. He also introduced marketing apparel brands like Calvin Klein and Cacharel jeans, Anne Klein, and Made in Heaven. He also initiated Filipinos to the world of discount stores selling export overruns with Pants Off chain. This move opened the doors for other discount stores in the country.

With a truly competitive spirit, passion for his work, and a thirst for innovation, Quiogue undoubtedly can be considered an icon in the marketing industry. *Marlet D. Salazar*

The 2003 Agora Awards Executive Committee

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Mylene Abiva-Sazon
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Search Chairman
Virgilio G. Ajero
Marketing Manager
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The 2003 AGORA AWARDS
Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship
Congratulations!
Jay Aldeguer President & Founder, Islands Souvenirs
"The world souvenir industry is a thriving multi-million dollar industry with a proliferation of souvenir items and shops worldwide.
Yet, there does not exist a single major brand that dominates this niche. We aim to be that brand."
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Singapore

Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship

Jonathan 'Jay' P. Aldeguer

President, Islands Souvenirs

Capturing the souvenir industry

JONATHAN "Jay" Aldeguer is someone who can be called a "perennial tourist." His frequent travels here and abroad produced a brilliant business idea that gave face to quality souvenirs market.

Like any typical traveler, Aldeguer has a habit of collecting souvenir shirts from the places he visited. However, he was a little dismayed by the substandard quality of the shirts that can be found even in the best cities abroad.

A keen observer that he is, he realized that the souvenir industry is a thriving multi-million dollar enterprise. But he could not find any quality "brand" to represent this branch of the tourism sector. Aldeguer used to sell T-shirts back in college which explains his profound knowledge of the business.

It took several more trips abroad before Aldeguer came up with "that germ of a concept."

"I wanted to create a premium souvenir brand that would dominate that niche," Aldeguer remembered telling to himself.

It was the birth of Islands Souvenirs that broke the traditional hold of small, cottage industry type retailers of "inferior" quality souvenirs. With a strong tropical concept as its driving force, Islands Souvenirs first opened in Cebu.

Islands Souvenirs brought life to the otherwise mediocre souvenirs before its birth. Its products highlight interesting landmarks, historical places capturing the identity and personality of the place. This time, however, it is done into a fun and festive designs in such novelties like T-shirts, shorts, bags, caps, and even in magnets, key rings, disposable cameras, etc.

The market's favorable response to Aldeguer's novel idea produced more than a dozen outlets located in department stores, beach resorts, and tourist spots. The following year, the company posted an impressive 360-percent increase in sales. Islands Souvenirs maintained a yearly sales increase of at least 80 percent.

Its speedy growth prompted Aldeguer to open Islands Souvenirs shops in Japan, Singapore and San Francisco. All in all, Islands Souvenirs has five outlets abroad and over a hundred here in the country.

With the tourism industry slowly picking up in the past few years, Aldeguer thought of opening a franchise program called Big Business in Tourism.

"This program allows us to expand in the fast emerging tourist destinations such as Siargao, Clark, Pagudpud, Tagaytay and many more," he said. With the program he hopes to open in at least eight areas next year.

"We are also looking at introducing new products in our stores next year."

Islands Souvenirs will soon find two new homes in Hawaii, Guam, and Australia. Aldeguer also has plans of opening additional stores at the Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco and a kiosk at the Orchard Road in Singapore by middle of next year.

And to better serve fellow Filipinos abroad, the company has thought of putting up a Direct mail marketing program in California and Hong Kong. *Marlet D. Salazar*

Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Advocacy

Metrobank Foundation

Raising the bar

The Foundation's programs have built-in advocacy marketing components, which is part of an institutional effort to promote a culture of excellence among people

IN THE SOCIAL development arena, advocacy marketing plays a number of important roles. First, it raises public awareness and perception of social development issues and concerns. Second, people are encouraged and given the proper incentive and recognition to get involved and do their share in the resolution of these issues and concerns. And third, it allows other stakeholders from different sectors of society, including the government, to come in and become part of the advocacy effort.

In the case of Metrobank Foundation, advocacy marketing directly contributed to the achievement of its key institutional objectives. It has largely brought about the success of its flagship programs in education, namely: the Search for Outstanding Teachers, the Metrobank Math Challenge and the College Scholarship Program.

In fact, all of the Foundation's programs have built-in advocacy marketing components, which is part of an institutional effort to promote a culture of excellence among people, a conscious, integrated advocacy marketing program that supports not just the specific objectives of the Foundation's programs but of the institution as a whole.

This conscious effort to use advocacy marketing in the pursuit of its programs has earned the Metrobank Foundation the Agora Award for Advocacy Marketing for 2003, the first time the award was being given.

Says Aniceto M. Sobrepeña, executive director of the Foundation: "As the very first corporate foundation to have won in the 24-year history of the Agora Awards, we hope to set an example and inspire other social development oriented organizations especially in the business community, to aspire for excellence as a means of doing corporate philanthropy as well as an end in itself. Considering the other awardees this year in their respective categories, we feel that we have managed to raise the bar on advocacy marketing in the country, which should redound to the benefit of our common advocacy efforts."

From left, Mylene Abiva-Sazon, director-Agora Awards, Elvira Ong-Chan, executive vice president, Metrobank Foundation, Dr. Placido Mapa, president, Metrobank Foundation, Chito Sobrepeña, senior vice president, Metrobank Foundation, and Bong Villamor, assistant program manager, Metrobank Foundation.

The Metrobank Foundation was established on Jan. 8, 1979 as the social philanthropic arm of Metrobank, the country's biggest financial conglomerate. Foundation Chair Dr. George S. K. Ty feels that it is the Foundation's responsibility to give something back to society on behalf of and in return for the support that the Group as a whole has enjoyed from the community. Reflecting the leadership that the Metrobank Group has consistently displayed in the business arena, the Metrobank Foundation likewise aims to lead the private sector in showing the way to responsible corporate citizenship. This can be achieved not just by putting its resources where they are needed, but in encouraging many others in key sectors of society to get involved and participate in the enormous task of social development and nation building.

Aside from its core programs, the Foundation hopes to reach more teachers and students to advocate for excellence in teaching and academics through NOTED or Network of Outstanding Teachers and Educators (NOTED) and ASSET or the Alumni Scholars for Service Excellence and Transformation. It is also opening the new Manila Doctors College at the Metropolitan Park along the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard. It currently manages the Manila Doctors Hospital and the College in Ermita, Manila. The new MDC affirms the Metrobank Groups' commitment to raise the standards of nursing education in the country and train world-class professionals. The College was also recently granted a Deregulated Status by the Commission on Higher Education, a testament to the quality of education that MDC offers its students.

In addition, the Foundation actively maintains a grants program, which supports more than 400 charitable organizations, peoples' organizations and civil society partners involved in sustainable human development. It is also a major contributor to disaster relief operations in the Philippines and occasionally, to other Asian countries. *Joel V. Nigos*

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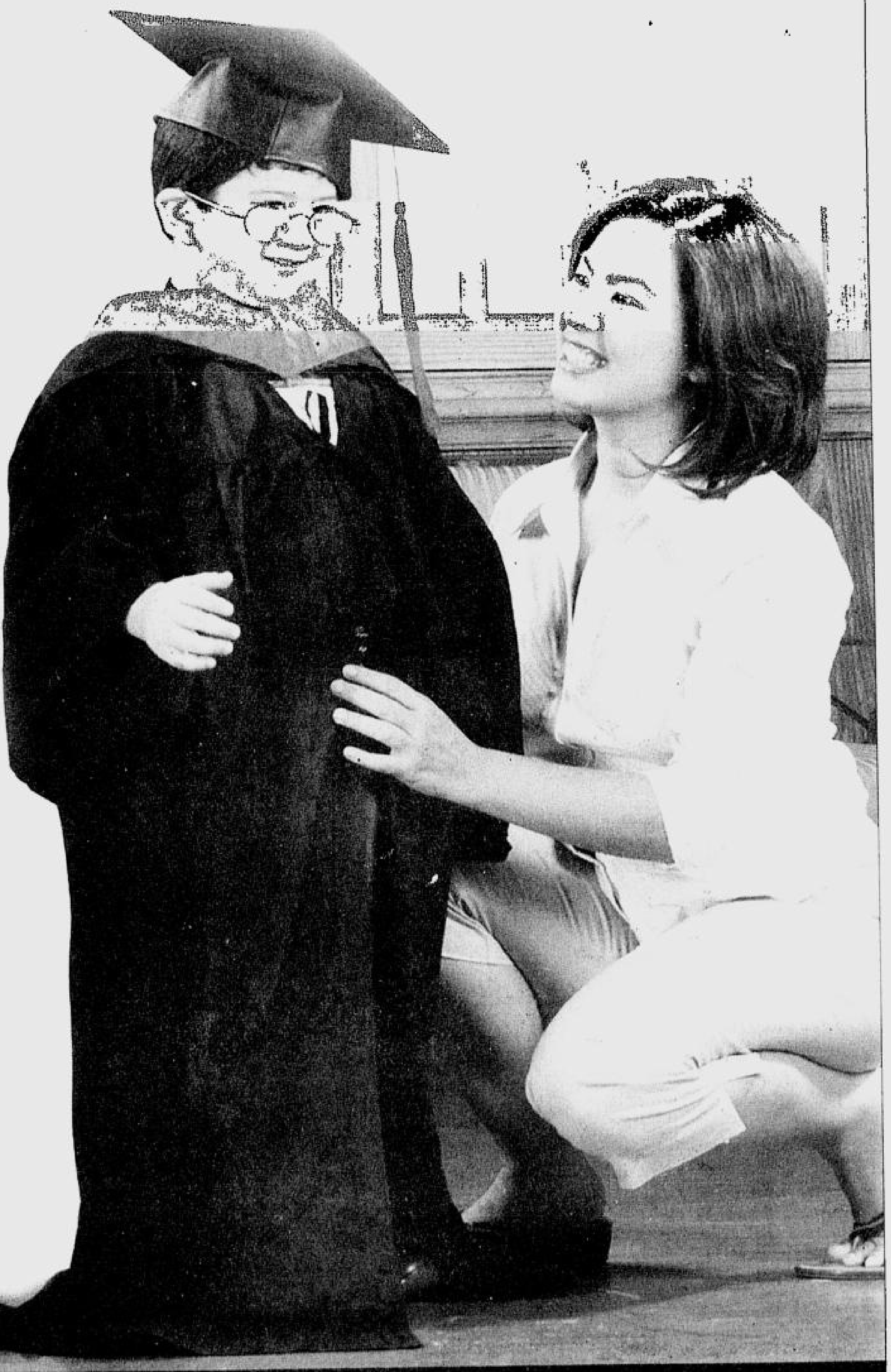

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and innovative spirit.

Meckoy Quiogue
President and COO, GMA Marketing and Productions, Inc.
2003 Agora Awardee for
Outstanding Achievement in
Marketing Management

GMA salutes all the heart-filled achievements
of this year's Agora awardees.

We're proud of you, Kapuso!

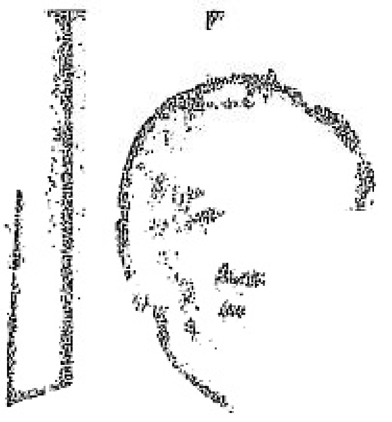
GMA

Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship (Large Scale)

Freddie Go

President, Goldilocks Bakeshop

The name everyone now recognizes



HAVING earned a managerial position in an established company engaged in abaca, copra and rice production, Freddie Go could have very well stayed in Ligao, Albay, to advance his career in that line of business. But his visionary character and forward-looking outlook led him to join his wife Clarita and two sisters-in-law, Milagros and Doris, to open a small bakeshop in Pasong Tamo way back in 1966. They decided to name their store Goldilocks, hoping to make it easier for children and their mothers to remember the shop's name and also because the name suggests prosperity and luck.

More than three decades later, Goldilocks did prosper. From a mere 10 employees, two display stands and an opening day sale of P574, the company has grown to 178 stores-both here and abroad-and more than 2,900 local employees. Its sales also has expanded thousand times over reaching a system-wide total of P3 billion at the end of 2001.

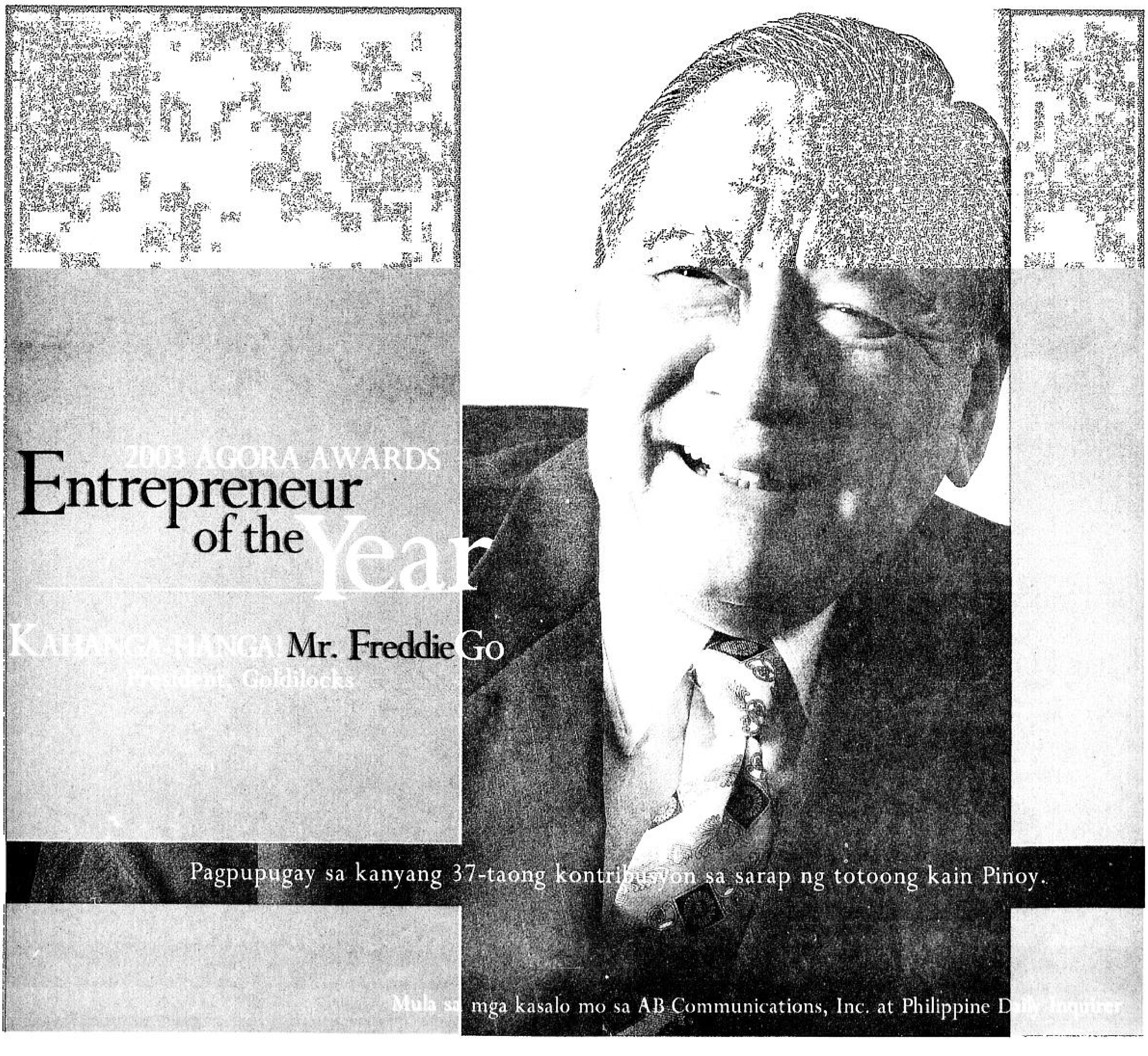
Now the country's No. 1 bakeshop, Goldilocks owes its exceptional growth to the guiding principles of quality, service excellence and innovation-all best exemplified by the hands-on management of Go. New business strategies and development campaigns are also formulated to maintain the leadership position of the company within its industry.

Asked the factors that led to his company winning the Agora Award for Entrepreneurship for 2003, Go says "more than anything, it is our dedicated commitment to Total Customer Satisfaction."

He adds, "Goldilocks' vision and mission statements clearly identify total customer satisfaction and superior-quality production as the company's means and end goal. All our innovations, new products and services, and marketing campaigns all stem from a genuine passion to serve our customers better.

Owing largely to the supervision of his sisters Milagros and Clarita, the Goldilocks menu has evolved through the years. From the initial offering of rolls, chiffon tube pan cakes and pastries, they moved on to decorated birthday and wedding cakes, catering services and full meal and merienda choices. Today, the Goldilocks menu not only boasts of all the all-time favorites-from the perennial mamon to ensaymada to brownies, cake slices

FREDDIE/ F7


2003 AGORA AWARDS
Entrepreneur of the Year
KAHANGA-HANGA! Mr. Freddie Go
President, Goldilocks
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Mula sa mga kasalo mo sa AB Communications, Inc. at Philippine Daily Inquirer

Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education

Catherine 'Karen' V. De Asis

Professor and Marketing Director De La Salle University (Graduate School of Business)

Fusing theories with everyday realities

2003 AGORA Awardee for Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education Karen V. de Asis is a dedicated marketing educator who advocates the fusion of marketing theories with its practical application in realizing its importance as an effective business tool. A professor at the De La Salle University Professional Schools Graduate School of Business where she teaches Marketing Management and Brand Management, De Asis has achieved noteworthy undertaking both in the academe and in the corporate world in spreading the value and discipline of Marketing Education.

De Asis obtained her Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts from then Maryknoll College (now Miriam) where she was bestowed the Area Award (the highest honors) for her chosen major. She then pursued a Master in Business Administration at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business where she was constant in the Dean's List. She is presently a candidate for Doctor of Education Management at De La Salle University College of Education.

For more than two decades, De Asis has displayed exemplary performance in the corporate setting where she has established a benchmark in the areas of Strategic Marketing and Planning, Sales and Business Development, and Management of Human Resources in various industries including advertising, food manufacturing, healthcare, personal care, public relations, retail apparel, telecommunications, and travel and tourism.

With a proven track record both as an educator and an industry practitioner, De Asis provides a pragmatic approach in educating her students, underscoring the importance of strategic thinking in marketing when executing plans and campaigns. Her drive to share the best practice marketing strategies has led her to publish articles in leading dailies where she tackles insightful marketing principles. Some of her written works have been picked up by a number of branding information websites including Brandchannel, the online website of Interbrand, the world's largest branding consulting agency.

De Asis is also a prolific resource speaker, having delivered keynote messages and lectures both here and abroad for a number of fora and seminars on Marketing Management. She also gives corporate in-house management training and provides marketing consultancy for multinational companies and small and medium enterprises.

Apart from keeping an active presence in the academic and corporate scenes, De Asis is a devoted wife and mother to four kids: Mikko, 14; Belo, 10; Enzo, 5; and Chyna, 3.

The Search Category Heads

Marketing Company of the Year
Edith D. Dy Chino
Vice President
Banco de Oro Universal Bank

Marketing Mngt.
Pamela S. Adriano
Central Marketing Services Manager
Honda Cars Makati

Marketing Education
Henry S. Tenedero
President
Center for Learning & Teaching Style

Asia-Pacific Agora Awards for Marketing Excellence
Joel G. Jimenez
SVP-Mngt Services
GMA Marketing & Productions, Inc.

Enrepreneurship
Ricky D. De Vera
President
Pin-Point Direct Marketing

Advocacy Marketing
Donald Patrick Lim
AVP for Marketing & Classifieds Ads
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Export Marketing
Tom C. Banguis, Jr.
President
AB Communications

Freddie Go

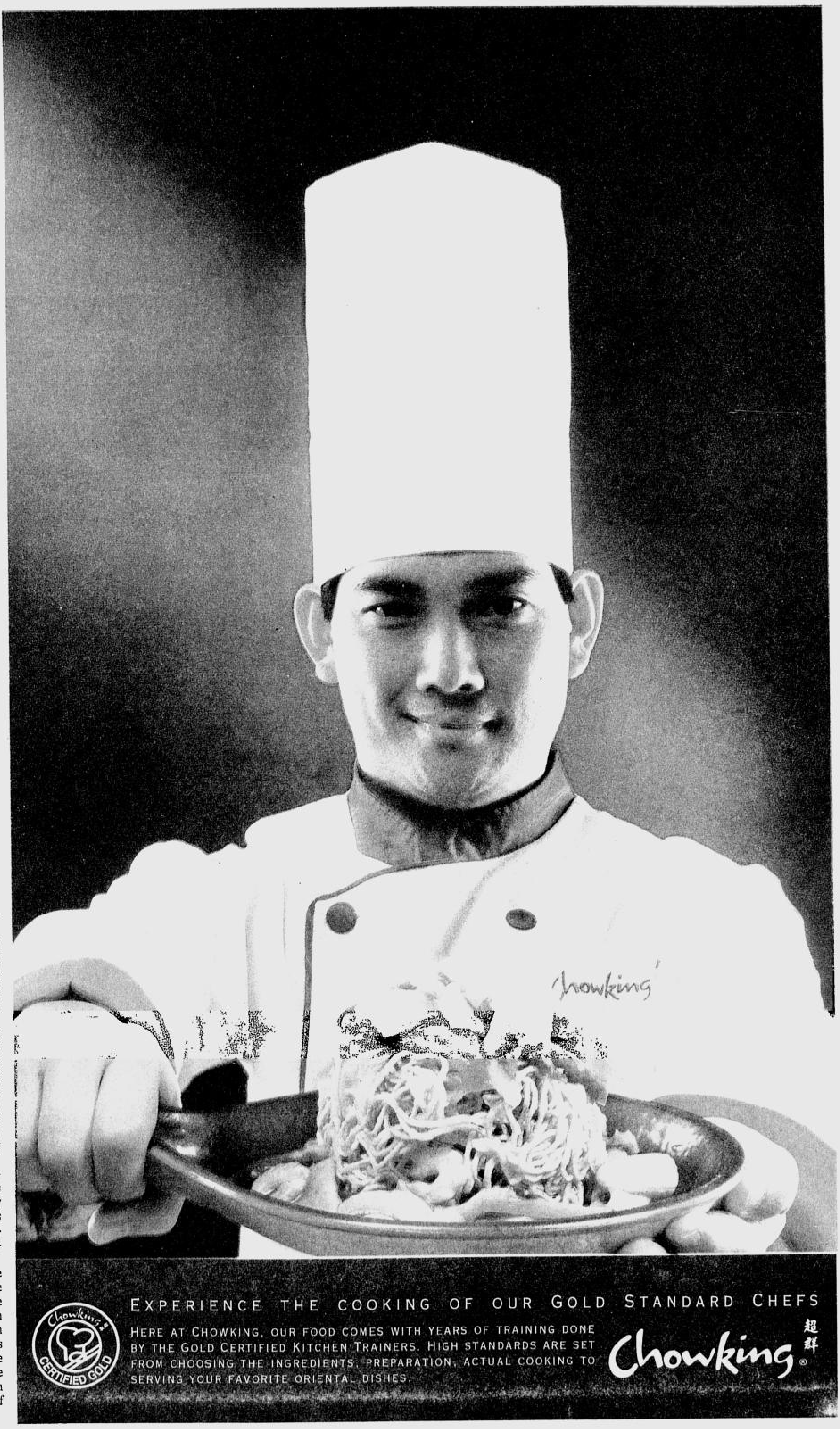
From page F6

and rolls-but also Pinoy treats like puto at dinuguan, pansit palabok, lumpiang shanghai, halo-halo and barbecue served at their Food Shops. Goldilocks has also successfully tapped the retail market with new favorites like the Fresh Bake Bread line, Sweet Delights Polvoron and Pik-a-Pop caramel popcorn, available in groceries and supermarkets.

Franchising opportunities are also being offered by Goldilocks to entrepreneurs since 1991. Out of the total number of Goldilocks stores nationwide, franchises account for two-thirds of that number. It has also crossed borders and cultures with 13 international branches in California, USA and Vancouver, Canada. Likewise, the company is also seriously considering the possibility of expanding across Southeast Asian markets as well.

And with its Internet-based Padala Program, people can send certain Goldilocks products to loved ones in select areas simply by logging on to the Goldilocks website. This innovation will allow the Goldilocks experience to cross borders. After all, thoughtfulness should not be limited by geography.

Yes, indeed! Goldilocks has become more than just a character in fairy tale. It is the name of a Pinoy institution that has become deeply ingrained in the Filipino psyche. In more than three decades, it has built up a store of fond memories, and every family has a favorite Goldilocks story to tell. As Freddie Go himself resolves, his customers deserve more than a delicious slice of cake or a scrumptious dish. They deserve a taste of something truly Pinoy. Joel V. Nigos



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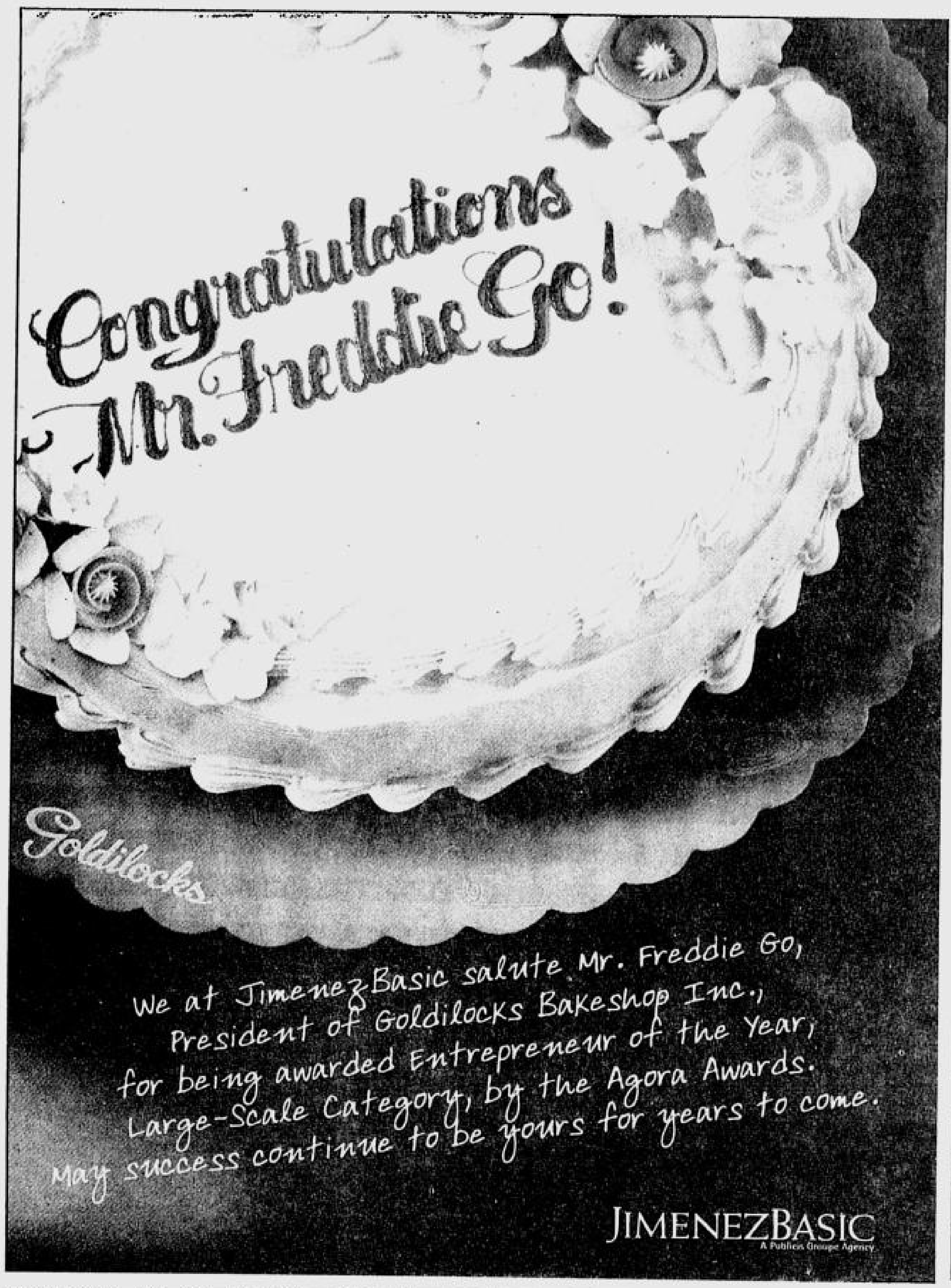

We at JimenezBasic salute Mr. Freddie Go,
President of Goldilocks Bakeshop Inc.,
for being awarded Entrepreneur of the Year,
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May success continue to be yours for years to come.

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GLX	750,000	112,500	54,220	37,389	29,752	21,376	17,475	14,846
GL	678,000	101,700	48,670	33,562	26,710	19,190	15,689	13,326
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